

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي

Volume 15 Number 4311

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8-9, 1990, RAJAB 13-14, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Baker arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Moscow Wednesday for a historic mission just before the Soviet Communist Party decided to drop its monopoly of power, setting an American precedent. Baker will try to clear up the long-standing rift between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, which both Washington and Moscow want to end. Baker will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at a guest house in Central Moscow. He is also due to see Gorbachev and address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme Soviet (parliament). One of the main issues will be the future of East and West Germany, which appear to be heading for unification soon after the end of the Cold War.

## Kuwaiti leader meets activists

KUWAIT (R) — The crown prince of Kuwait met pro-democracy activists Wednesday for the first time since the start of the Kuwaiti Revolution. The meeting was held at the residence of the crown prince, Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, and lasted for about an hour. The crown prince, who is 65 years old, was seen in a friendly, frank mood. He said that the meeting was a success. "It was clear from the start that His Highness the Crown Prince was keen on making the meeting a success and making it a start for the dialogue," he said. The meeting with 32 former deputies followed a series of rallies in December and January organized by a coalition of politicians seeking a return to parliamentary democracy in the country. Sheikhs described it as a friendly, frank meeting. "We did not get into details, that will be discussed at the next meeting," he said. There was no immediate comment from the government side. Diplomats are watching developments in Kuwait with interest. They do not believe the pro-democracy movement poses a threat to the stability of Kuwait. "No, we are not sitting on the edge of our seats, so to speak," one Western diplomat said.

## House panel reviews Income Tax Law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday discussed the Income Tax Law and two proposed amendments to it with Income Tax Department Director Salameh Al Tarawneh and his legal advisor Mohammad Zuhairi. The meeting decided to call specialists in income tax to hear their views about the two amendments in the committee's next meeting. The House's Administrative Committee held a session during which it discussed a number of complaints referred to it from the House.

## British chief of staff arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the British Joint Chiefs of Staff Sir David Craig arrived in Amman Wednesday on an official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Chief of Staff General Fahd Abu Taleb.

## Arafat, Sharaa meet in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa met in Tunis Tuesday in the latest of a series of talks on a possible reconciliation between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Damascus. The PLO news agency Wafa said Wednesday.

## Turkey to free Euphrates on schedule

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Wednesday it would end its diversion of the Euphrates River on schedule next week one month after it cut the flow to fill its new Ataturk dam. "The diversion will end at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) on Feb. 12, and the waters of the Euphrates will be released to the river bed as Turkey has promised its neighbours," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sengar said.

## Yemeni summit planned

ABU DHABI (R) — North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh will soon visit Aden for a summit on the merger of South and North Yemen, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said Wednesday. Al Itihad newspaper, in a report from Sanaa, said Saleh would meet South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party leader Ali Salem Al Beidh to discuss "moves taken so far to unite the two countries." The planned summit will be the second since Nov. 30, when the two leaders decided to merge their countries within a year.

## Member of armed gang hanged in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A member of an armed gang who was convicted of murder and robbery was hanged in the northern city of Hama, the Syrian daily newspaper Al Bath reported Wednesday. The newspaper said Mohammad Mahmoud Kaddour, 30, was a member of a gang in the Syrian Talkalakh area near the border with Lebanon. It said Kaddour robbed three priests in October and fled towards the Lebanese side of the border with his partner, Khalid Al Samra. But the priests followed the two men and in an exchange of fire on Syrian territory, Samra and one of the priests were killed, the newspaper said. Bath said the two other priests went on following Kaddour and managed to capture him in Lebanon, where they handed over to the Syrian forces.

## Soviet party gives up power monopoly

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party leadership agreed Wednesday to surrender its 70-year-old monopoly on power, paving the way for the eventual creation of a multi-party democracy.

## King pays tribute to Royal Jordanian

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed appreciation of efforts exerted by Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, and expressed his total support for its management, which he described as keen on achieving the airline's objectives.

## Jordanian Communists call on Moscow to halt Jewish exodus

AMMAN — The Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) has urged the Soviet Union to halt the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel until a comprehensive peace settlement is reached for the Palestinians.

## PLO requests Jordan to host PCC meeting in March

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has officially requested Jordan to host a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) in Amman in March, according to Palestinian officials.

## OIC lambasts superpowers for Soviet influx to Israel

JEDDAH (AP) — A pan-Islamic meeting Wednesday castigated the United States and the Soviet Union for allowing an influx of Soviet Jews into the Israeli-occupied territories.

## Aoun vows to fight Taif peace plan to the finish

BAABDA, Lebanon (Agencies) — General Michel Aoun on Wednesday vowed to fight the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia to the finish unless it renounced an Arab-brokered peace plan for Lebanon.



Mikhail Gorbachev

attention.

Article six will remain in force until it is annulled by a session of the full Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies. But it is extremely unlikely to be convened before elections to the republican parliaments over the coming weeks.

TASS said the text of the adopted proposals would be published later in the press.

According to a version issued at the weekend by the Moscow Radio publication Interfax, Gorbachev sought a programme aimed at "humane democratic socialism."

It said that under the proposals, the party would "assume no state or government powers, nor lay any claim to having its role set down by the constitution."

Gorbachev also called for a revision of the leadership structure, including the creation of a slimmed-down 200-member central committee, a new political executive committee with representatives from all 15 republics and the new post of party chairman and two deputy chairmen, Interfax said.

The committee meeting was pushed into a third day by conservative fury over the reform package.

But official accounts of the speeches at the closed session showed the tide flowing Gorbachev's way. Speaker after speaker from the ruling politburo made it clear the party must act now to reform itself or risk being cast into political limbo by the wave of nationalist and political turmoil gripping the country.

"Either we prove able to lead a rapid but controlled process of transformation or it will become an uncontrolled deluge and fall under the influence of populist demagogues or even fanatical leaders of pogroms," the party's ideology chief, Vadim Medvedev, told the meeting.

His words were echoed by fellow-politburo member Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister and a firm Gorbachev ally, who said the plan could give perestroika a new lease of life.

"If we cannot consolidate healthy forces, tomorrow there may emerge chaos and anarchy. In these conditions it is easy to foresee the entry of dictators large and small with nothing to prevent them turning back the development of our country."

The politburo's most prominent conservative, Yegor Ligachev, pointed to mistakes in five years of reform, but avoided criticism of the platform, including its provision for a multi-party system.

trial committee, a new political executive committee with representatives from all 15 republics and the new post of party chairman and two deputy chairmen, Interfax said.

The committee meeting was pushed into a third day by conservative fury over the reform package.

But official accounts of the speeches at the closed session showed the tide flowing Gorbachev's way. Speaker after speaker from the ruling politburo made it clear the party must act now to reform itself or risk being cast into political limbo by the wave of nationalist and political turmoil gripping the country.

"Either we prove able to lead a rapid but controlled process of transformation or it will become an uncontrolled deluge and fall under the influence of populist demagogues or even fanatical leaders of pogroms," the party's ideology chief, Vadim Medvedev, told the meeting.

His words were echoed by fellow-politburo member Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister and a firm Gorbachev ally, who said the plan could give perestroika a new lease of life.

"If we cannot consolidate healthy forces, tomorrow there may emerge chaos and anarchy. In these conditions it is easy to foresee the entry of dictators large and small with nothing to prevent them turning back the development of our country."

The politburo's most prominent conservative, Yegor Ligachev, pointed to mistakes in five years of reform, but avoided criticism of the platform, including its provision for a multi-party system.

"Such a Soviet decision would be in harmony with its previously declared position not to restore diplomatic relations with Israel except within the context of a comprehensive peace settlement," Ziadine, who returned to Jordan this week from a trip which included Libya, the Soviet Union, and Syria, told the Jordan Times.

The JCP has hitherto been under attack, especially by Islamists, for failing to condemn Moscow for allowing Jewish immigration to Israel.

During a recent parliamentary debate, JCP Deputy Issa Madanat, defended Moscow's position stressing that the Soviet Union opposed the settling of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

But the party has decided to take a clearer and firmer position on the issue and was expected to release a press statement today.

TCP sources told the Jordan Times that although the party understands the magnitude of pressures that Moscow is coming under it nevertheless believes that allowing Soviet Jewish immigration — especially if Moscow is to endorse an agreement on direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel — would have dangerous consequences on prospects of peace in the Middle East.

"We believe that the whole issue would tarnish the Soviet image here as people would start to equate Moscow's stand with that of the U.S., which supports Israel," a JCP member said.

The JCP position on Soviet immigration marks the first public disagreement that the party has ever expressed on Soviet policy in the Middle East.

Qadhafi meets Communists

In another development, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi met last week in Tripoli with leaders of all Arab Communist parties and urged them to cooperate to counter "American influence in the region."

Ziadine, who attended the meeting, the first of its kind and held in one of Qadhafi's famous bedouin tents, said the Libyan leader discussed the implications of the change in Eastern Europe on the Middle East.

According to Ziadine, Qadhafi stressed that the involvement of Moscow in perestroika and the changes in Eastern Europe would "put the Arab World in direct confrontation with the U.S. without the support and the balancing effect of the Soviet Union."

## King pays tribute to Royal Jordanian

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed appreciation of efforts exerted by Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, and expressed his total support for its management, which he described as keen on achieving the airline's objectives.

Speaking during a visit to RJ head offices, King Hussein said he appreciated the efforts of RJ personnel and their resolve to maintaining RJ as a strong national institution and a source of national pride.

King Hussein met with RJ Executive Director Husam Abu Ghazaleh, who presented a briefing on the airline's operations and programmes.

Abu Ghazaleh said RJ was keen on maintaining the airline as a bridge for the exchange of culture among nations.

Later, the King met with Abu Ghazaleh's deputies and senior RJ officials and urged them to exert more effort and sacrifice in the face of economic challenges posed to Jordan in the present stage.

King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by Chief of Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker.

## Jordanian Communists call on Moscow to halt Jewish exodus

AMMAN — The Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) has urged the Soviet Union to halt the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel until a comprehensive peace settlement is reached for the Palestinians.

The JCP position was expressed during a meeting last week in Moscow between JCP Secretary General Yasoun Ziadine and officials of the Soviet Communist Party.

"Such a Soviet decision would be in harmony with its previously declared position not to restore diplomatic relations with Israel except within the context of a comprehensive peace settlement," Ziadine, who returned to Jordan this week from a trip which included Libya, the Soviet Union, and Syria, told the Jordan Times.

The JCP has hitherto been under attack, especially by Islamists, for failing to condemn Moscow for allowing Jewish immigration to Israel.

During a recent parliamentary debate, JCP Deputy Issa Madanat, defended Moscow's position stressing that the Soviet Union opposed the settling of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

But the party has decided to take a clearer and firmer position on the issue and was expected to release a press statement today.

TCP sources told the Jordan Times that although the party understands the magnitude of pressures that Moscow is coming under it nevertheless believes that allowing Soviet Jewish immigration — especially if Moscow is to endorse an agreement on direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel — would have dangerous consequences on prospects of peace in the Middle East.

"We believe that the whole issue would tarnish the Soviet image here as people would start to equate Moscow's stand with that of the U.S., which supports Israel," a JCP member said.

The JCP position on Soviet immigration marks the first public disagreement that the party has ever expressed on Soviet policy in the Middle East.

Qadhafi meets Communists

In another development, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi met last week in Tripoli with leaders of all Arab Communist parties and urged them to cooperate to counter "American influence in the region."

Ziadine, who attended the meeting, the first of its kind and held in one of Qadhafi's famous bedouin tents, said the Libyan leader discussed the implications of the change in Eastern Europe on the Middle East.

According to Ziadine, Qadhafi stressed that the involvement of Moscow in perestroika and the changes in Eastern Europe would "put the Arab World in direct confrontation with the U.S. without the support and the balancing effect of the Soviet Union."



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers with Royal Jordanian Chief Executive Husam Abu Ghazaleh (left) in a meeting attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker (Petra photo)

## PLO requests Jordan to host PCC meeting in March

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has officially requested Jordan to host a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) in Amman in March, according to Palestinian officials.

The request was made by PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Razaq Yahiya during a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday.

The PLO was initially hoping to convene the PCC — an intermediary consultative body between the PLO leadership and the Palestine National Council (PNC) — on Feb. 28, but the date coincided with the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit scheduled to begin here on Feb. 24.

Jordanian officials explained to the PLO that it would be practically difficult to hold the two meetings almost in the same period," a Palestinian official told the Jordan Times.

He said that the PLO was now considering convening the PCC in the first week of March in Amman if it is practically convenient for the PLO here in 1984.

"If not, the council meeting might take place in Baghdad," the official said.

The convening of the PCC in Amman would reflect the growing closeness between the two sides, especially over the Middle East peace process.

Jordan has strongly supported the PLO's efforts to assume a full-fledged role in all stages of the peace process and criticised attempts to exclude the organisation from negotiations.

"The only address we know is that of the PLO," His Majesty King Hussein told the Jordan Times in an interview last month in reference to efforts to find "representatives of the Palestinian people."

The next PCC meeting is expected to be very significant as the PLO leadership is coming under mounting pressures to reassess its policies in the peace process.

A PLO official said that the Jordanian government did not express any reservation over the idea of hosting the meeting but that the timing was "simply very impractical, especially that meeting halls and hotels would be reserved for the ACC summit."

The PLO had also to postpone a meeting of the Palestine National Council, which was also scheduled to take place in Amman on Feb. 25, in view of the ACC summit.

The PCC meeting would be the first high-level Palestinian meeting in Amman since the convening of the PNC here in 1984.

But unlike the 1984 PNC, which was boycotted by left-wing PLO factions, the PCC will be attended by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the

of Palestine (PFLP) and the "Palestinian Communist Party alongside Fatah and independents."

DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh, who is of Jordanian origin, and George Habash of the PFLP have not been back in Jordan since the 1970 civil war.

The two groups have expressed support for the Jordanian democratic experiment and the Kingdom's disengagement from the West Bank.

Last October, an official DFLP delegation, headed by Yasser Abed Rabbo, met with Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi.

The unprecedented Jordanian-DFLP talks followed the latter's disengagement from its Jordanian wing, which established an independent Jordanian party.

In the last two months many DFLP and PFLP members and officials, who were hitherto banned, visited Jordan.

In a recent interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Watan, King Hussein did not dismiss the possibility of allowing Hawatmeh and Habash to visit Jordan or even to regain their Jordanian passports.

"I cannot say that anything is impossible at any stage in the future... but this subject is not under discussion," but if there were sincere intentions... this country has always been big enough for all its countrymen... I cannot say no to this question," the King said when he was asked if Hawatmeh and Habash would be allowed back.

## Arabs should reassess impact of E. Europe events — Jordanian envoy

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the aftermath of the momentous events that have been taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, much of the world is changing so rapidly and dramatically that Jordan and the rest of the Arab World have no choice but to take another look at the changes and to start from scratch in assessing their impact on our lives and prepare a strategy for the future.

This is the view of one veteran Jordanian diplomat who has witnessed those events first hand and who insists on devoting a whole new effort to studying the global political changes in order to understand what is happening in the world today.

Sherif Fawaz, who is a former minister of culture and youth, calls on Arab thinkers, educators, officials and citizens to take it upon themselves to inform themselves and come up with different approaches to deal with the changes taking place in Europe in particular and the world in general.

"It is vital for the Arabs to begin from scratch in carving out their place and role in the 'new world'," he says, adding that he expects three economic giants to emerge in this 'new world'. These are likely to be Japan, Europe and the U.S., and he predicts that the developing world would be dependent on the large markets of these three giants for their exports and subsidies.

He points out that while the "great" European experiment of 1992 would do "great things for Europe," many other countries would be hard hit by the economic consequences that will follow. He gives as an example North African Arab countries which are major suppliers of fruits (and other products) to Western European countries and which will have a difficult task maintaining their exports to Europe after 1992.

But Sherif Fawaz points out that some positive economic trends may also develop as a result of the changes in Eastern Europe. "One East German put it to me this way: Just think of how many more cars East Germans will have after the expected reunification of Germany and think of all the petrol we are going to need to make those cars go."

"So, we cannot be sure how the changes will affect us in the Arab World," Sherif Fawaz insists. "That is why we have to make the effort to understand what is happening around us. It is simply not good enough to determine from now that the changes in Europe will be either positive or negative."

No one could really foresee the tremendous change which was taking place in Europe, the ambassador explains. It began to crystallise in 1985 when Western Europe began preparing for a united market after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher agreed to sign the Common Market agreement.

That summer Mikhail Gorbachev was elected Soviet leader, and so in both the East and the West progressive movements moved towards a new era which culminated in the fall of the Berlin Wall in November last year.

The Berlin Wall, Sherif Fawaz says, was the central arena for tension in the world. "Once it fell, so did the tension. While prolonged regional wars around the world represented superpower struggles in many cases, no side would have given up Berlin. Both sides would have fought to the bitter end in case of a conflict." Hence there was no possibility of flying out of Berlin or evacuating the divided city, it would have been the last stand for either side.

The fall of the Berlin Wall, the Ambassador believes, was the beginning of a new era, not for Europe alone but for the whole world. "The Arab World

(Continued on page 3)



## Aoun's guns breathe destruction from Death River to Dbayeh

DBAYEH, Lebanon (R) — For 15 kilometres along the road from Death River to Dbayeh, there is a shell crater every metre or two.

No building has escaped unscathed, a whole shopping centre has been destroyed, cars smashed, telephone poles have been flattened. The people of Dbayeh have been left speechless.

Everything in sight has been damaged by a savage, three-day artillery bombardment unleashed by General Michel Aoun against his fellow-Christian rivals in one of the fiercest battles of Lebanon's 14 years of civil war.

I was among the first newsmen allowed into the area since Aoun's army troops captured the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia barracks at strategic Dbayeh north of Beirut in a three-pronged attack Tuesday.

It was the Aoun forces first major success in a week-long Christian war that has cost at least 350 lives.

Smoke wafted through the wreckage. The occasional sniper bullet and shrill cries of distraught women rang through the remains of Rachdan Barracks.

"We tried to avoid bloodshed but they (LF) pushed us into it," an army captain said as he attempted to explain the scale of devastation.

Dazed civilians, emerging from days in underground shelters, appeared numb and disoriented. Such was the devastation. Some were clearly unable to recognise their old neighbourhood.

"The shells have changed the whole geography and shape of Dbayeh," one of the town's 10,000 Christians whispered.

Elias Bakhos said he huddled with his family in a shelter through Aoun's artillery bom-

bardment. "Six shells hit our building, smoke from burning cars outside entered the shelter... We thought we would be asphyxiated."

At Rachdan, a queue of 50 black-clad mothers sought news of their sons, some who fought then fled with the LF, others who battled them for Aoun.

"Did you see Georges?" asked a woman, tearing unconsciously at her hair in anxiety.

The soldiers, tired and unshaven, tried to help.

Smoke also came from fires of burning photographs of LF militants and their girlfriends and families, abandoned as the barracks crashed around them.

In the debris of the canteen, a few tables still stood, half-eaten meals on plates, tea in cups. Blood on the floor.

No bodies were in sight Wednesday as army cranes cleared rubble but security sources said at least 40 people had been killed in Dbayeh and many more wounded.

In one yard eight LF tanks stood abandoned, shells piled unused by them.

Troops relaxed in armoured personnel carriers, drinking coffee in their first break from battle since Sunday. A captain of the Eighth Brigade of the 82nd Battalion bitterly harangued the LF.

He dismissed his fellow-Christians as "no better than Syrians," whose units Aoun has vowed to drive out of Lebanon.

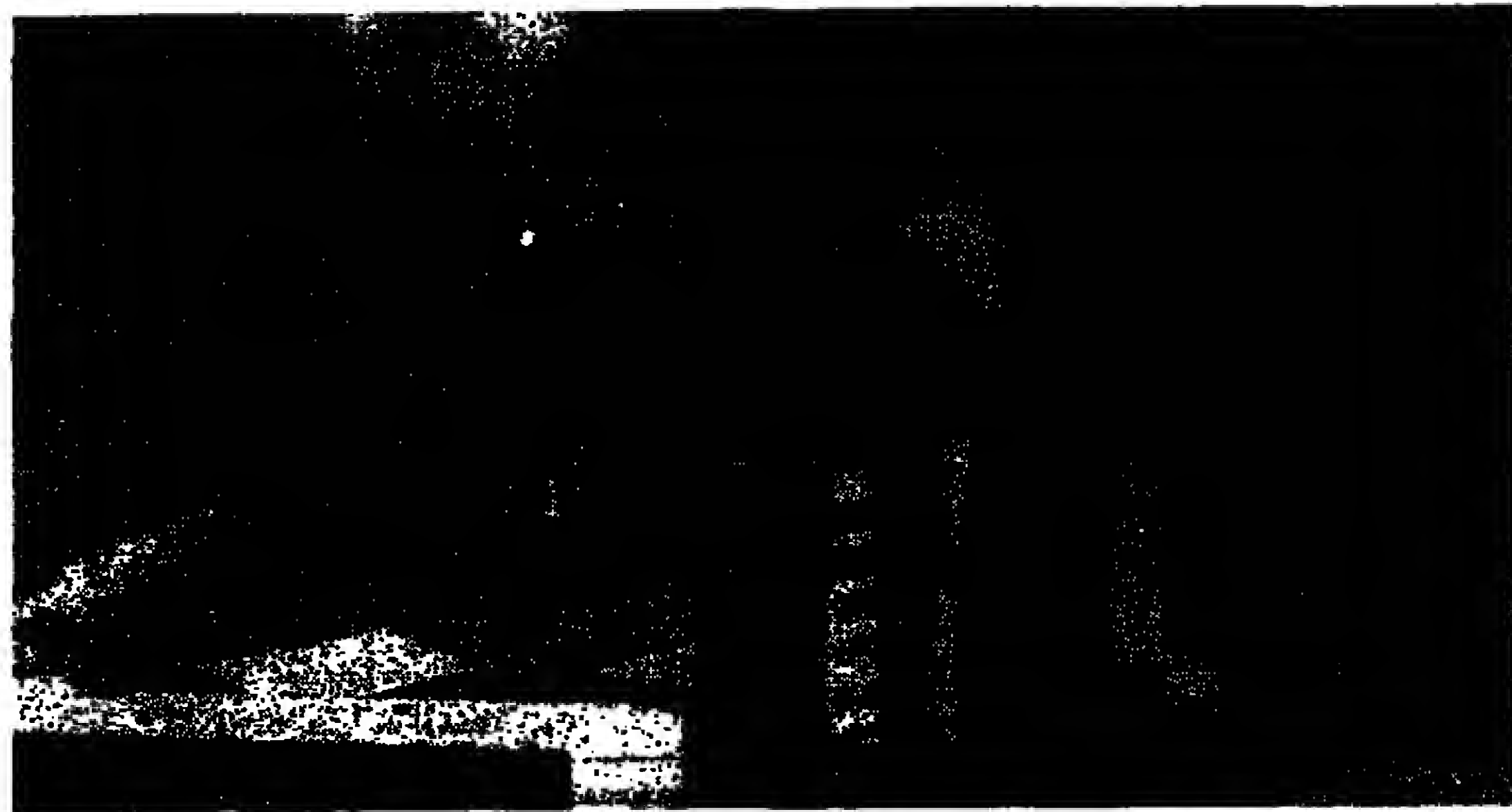
"We found some of our comrades who were killed before we reached the barracks, mutilated and shot in the head. One body was 'booby-trapped,' he said.

In parts of the cratered, barbed wire, army troops loaded ammunition and weapons onto lorries. LF office equipment, stationery, dentist's chairs, equipment from the barber's shop — everything of use was seized.

The once prosperous neighbourhood looked as though an earthquake had struck. Glass, smashed concrete, parts of shops fronts mixed with vegetables, splintered furniture, clothing, were spilled across the streets.

Army checkpoints were dotted around the area. At once a soldier passed around a box of chocolates.

Sniper fire could be heard from the new frontlines to the north as the soldiers prepared for the next offensive in what LF leader Samir Geagea is calling "a war of annihilation."



Smoke billows from the port area in East Beirut where Gen. Michel Aoun's troops have been fighting to dislodge the Lebanese Forces militia of Samir Geagea.

## Benjedid seeks to tame Algeria's unruly democracy

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid is using carrot and stick to try to tame Algeria's unruly new democracy and win time to implement desperately needed economic reforms.

Faced with a sinking economy, violence by Muslim extremists and a wave of labour unrest, Benjedid Tuesday urged new opposition parties to rally around what he called basic principles of the Algerian state.

Political sources said he was seeking a period of social peace needed to complete a flagging economic reform drive he launched in the mid-1980s, widely deemed essential to overcome an economic crisis.

"The government needs the understanding and help of all," he told a conference of public sector managers. "We need responsible discussion between all parties on a kind of (common) platform."

Benjedid vowed to strike hard against any new act of violence such as an attack on Jan. 16 by Muslim extremists on a courtroom outside of Algiers.

But he also held out a carrot — open dialogue with all 20 of the country's new political parties, and renewed guarantees that forthcoming multi-party elections, unprecedented since independence in 1962, will be free and fair.

"If everyone philosophises in his corner at the expense of work and the national economy I don't know what the result will be," he said with

some irritation.

Political parties contacted by Reuters on Wednesday said it was too soon to respond to Benjedid's appeal. But a similar call by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche last month drew cool reactions.

The sources said emerging opposition parties feared they would be compromised if they threw their weight behind reforms drawn up entirely by the ruling National Liberation Front.

The Social Democratic Party said recently it did not reject the idea of a "national pact" between parties but it questioned whether the grounds for such a pact existed.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy, which seeks greater recognition for the country's non-Arab Berber culture, has called on opposition parties to work out among themselves a minimum common platform to submit to the government.

The two opposition groups with the most influence among striking workers — the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front and the Communist Avant-Garde Socialist Party — have kept silent on the proposed national pact.

Hamrouche has said the government needs three years before its reforms and anti-recession measures bear fruit.

Officials project that by 1992, a crushing short-term foreign debt burden will have eased, crucial gas revenues will be rising and the dismantling of central economic planning will

have spurred productivity.

"The question is will public patience last for another three years, and will opposition political parties in fact help to maintain it?" asked one Western diplomat.

Social unrest and violence have threatened to undermine sweeping reforms Benjedid launched last year to pull Algeria out of economic crisis and build a free, multi-party democracy.

"There have been some excesses in the use of violence, both words and acts. We attribute these to the lack of experience, to the fact our society does not know the new democratic forms," Benjedid said.

"This does not mean the state is weak and cannot cope."

In his first comment on the violence, Chadli appealed to all newly accredited opposition political parties to help ensure the success of the country's democratic experiment, one of the most ambitious in the Third World.

"It is the duty of all accredited parties to contribute to the emergence of real democracy and accept and abide by the rules of the game," he said.

Labour unrest has made it increasingly difficult for the government to implement plans to revamp the stagnant state sector inherited from two decades of socialist economic policy.

An average of 250 strikes a month shook the economy last

### Chadli Benjedid

year. "I am not against strikes, they are among the rights of workers. But... no one has the right to accelerate the destruction of the national economy. This is a crime, anything of the sort is treachery to the nation."

He said the strikes were in part triggered by political infighting, and that was unacceptable.

"Managers must open the door of dialogue with true representatives of the workers. If they are right you must give them their rights," he told some 700 managers from all segments of the public sector.

Benjedid repeated a pledge that forthcoming multi-party elections on the local level, the first since independence, would be free and fair.

"I guarantee as the top official in the country that there will be free and effective elections to allow the Algerian people to exercise full democracy and freedom," he said.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

#### Iranian envoy in Ankara

ANKARA (R) — An aide to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Ankara Wednesday with a message for Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Ali Reza Moayeri, adviser to Rafsanjani on international affairs, told reporters his visit was part of an exchange of views. The message from Rafsanjani concerned bilateral relations and regional issues, he said. Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said visits to Tehran this year by Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz were in the offing. A joint economic commission will meet in Ankara later this month to discuss trade ties. The two countries resolved a price dispute last September over crude from Iran, Turkey's biggest oil supplier after Iraq.

#### U.S. to sell jet equipment to Turkey

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States plans to sell Turkey \$205 million in sophisticated targeting and navigation equipment for use in F-16 jet fighters, the Pentagon has said. The plan, sent to Congress by President George Bush, is expected to become final in 30 days without opposition from lawmakers. The package includes 60 low-altitude targeting and infrared navigation system (Lantirn) pods for the jets to help Turkey fulfil its NATO obligations, the Defense Department said. "Turkey needs this equipment to provide F-16C/D aircraft with capability for night operations" as part of its military modernisation programme, the announcement said.

#### Stricken Iranian tanker emptied

ROTTERDAM (AP) — An Iranian tanker from which millions of gallons of crude spilled into the Atlantic was on its way to a European dry dock Wednesday after its remaining cargo was transferred to another vessel, a Dutch salvage company said. The transfer of the 200,000 tons of oil from the Khark 5 into the Iranian-registered Shih Khooch, which began Saturday off the coast of Sierra Leone, West Africa, ended without incident Tuesday, said Anette Lindquist, a spokeswoman for Smit International. In December, an estimated 70,000 tons of light Iranian crude spilled into the ocean when an explosion ripped a hole in the Khark 5's hull. The accident occurred 400 miles north of the Canary Islands. Before drifting into the mid-Atlantic, the oil threatened to cause serious damage to fisheries and beaches along the Moroccan coast. The cargo transfer had to take place on the high seas because five nations, among them Spain and Portugal, banned the Khark 5 from their 200-mile exclusive economic zones for fear of pollution.

## Sudan religious leaders call for end to killings

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Religious leaders in a besieged southern Sudanese city have urged the world community to condemn the killing of civilians by both government troops and rebels.

A letter received Wednesday by Nairobi-based Western journalists called for international pressure on the combatants "to halt the continuing and escalating massacre of the people of southern Sudan."

The letter was signed by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Juba, Paolo Luki Loro.

Loro said the appeal followed a meeting Thursday in Juba of the city's religious leaders, including Episcopal Archbishop Benjamin Wani.

Fighting between government troops and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has intensified recently and food supplies are running low as a result of a government ban on relief flights on Nov. 3.

"The fact that the fields and roads surrounding Juba have been

mined by both the SPLA and the government, and the inability of the government to bring the necessary food to Juba have placed the people in a crucible of suffering and despair," Loro wrote.

The religious leaders appealed to the government and the rebels to respect human rights, stop shelling towns and civilians, and agree to a ceasefire.

Loro recounted the panic and fear which gripped Juba's estimated 200,000 residents following two rebel artillery bombardments last month. The letter said an estimated 3,000 people have fled Juba by air to Khartoum and Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

"The fact remains, however, that most of Juba's 300,000 people cannot leave. Their plight is desperate and worsening," Loro said.

Loro said the ban on relief flights in reduced rations and the 313 tons of corn reserves at the end of January were expected to last two weeks.

## Greek court rejects release of jailed former Muslim deputy

KOMOTINI, Greece (R) — A Greek appeals court rejected Wednesday a request for the temporary release of a former Muslim deputy, raising fears of fresh clashes between Greek Christians and Muslims in the northern town of Komotini.

Ahmet Sadiq, who was elected the first independent Muslim deputy in parliament last June, was sentenced on Jan. 26 to 18 months in jail for disturbing the

peace and inciting discord.

He was also barred from politics for three years.

Sadiq's defence attorney asked the appeals court to release his client so he could support his family.

But prosecutor Dimitris Vasilos rejected the claim, saying Sadiq's presence in Komotini would "disturb the calm climate" prevailing in town.

## Solarz: U.S. wants to end Afghan 'agony'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressman Stephen Solarz says U.S. policy to end the war in Afghanistan has failed and the United States is searching for a formula to end bloodshed and remove Afghanistan as a thorn in the side of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Solarz said Tuesday his House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs will hold hearings on the issue later this month, after learning the results of Secretary of State James Baker's talks with Kremlin leaders starting Wednesday in Moscow.

U.S. policy in the past was based on predictions of an early collapse of the Communist government in Afghanistan once the Soviets ended their decade-long

occupation a year ago, said Solarz.

The Democrat said a compromise is needed because "there won't be a ceasefire without a political settlement or a military victory by one side or the other."

President George Bush's administration, which recently sent a high-level State Department team to the area, seeks to broaden the base of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) made up mostly of resistance leaders living in Pakistan, he said.

"I see no prospect for a political settlement unless the AIG succeeds in broadening its base" with members from within Afghanistan to be selected at a forthcoming Shura, or traditional

council of leaders, Solarz said, recalling his talks in Pakistan last month with Pakistan government and Afghan resistance officials.

Robert Kimmitt, undersecretary of state, said on Jan. 18, that warmer U.S.-Soviet relations have created an opening for a political end to the Afghan civil war.

While Washington still insists that President Najibullah be removed, his departure is no longer seen as a prerequisite to opening peace talks.

Moscow has resurrected a year-old offer of a "transitional" government, which Washington believes means Najibullah's eventual removal, Kimmitt said on a

visit to Pakistan.

Solarz said Pakistan "is very serious" about wanting to end the war because it realises that 3 million Afghan refugees living in its soil "are not going to return home while the fighting continues — while it's not safe."

The current guerrilla leadership voices interest in a political settlement "but their definition of political settlement has the character of 'unconditional surrender,'" Solarz said. "Inasmuch as they say there is no room for Najibullah or, for anyone else, from the People Democratic Party of Afghanistan, it is difficult to envision how one can get a political settlement."

## Ethiopia reports advances against Tigre rebels

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Ethiopia said Wednesday its army had destroyed a large rebel force in southern Gondar province and was slowly pushing back insurgents in neighbouring Wollo province.

The official news agency said army units had reached the outskirts of the strategic city of Weldiya in northern Wollo province, making what it called "slow but steady" progress against

apparently stiff opposition. The news agency said the rebel Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) suffered heavy casualties in two days of fighting, about 48 kilometres west of Neftas Mewcha in southern Gondar.

Neftas Mewcha was the first provincial town the Tigrean rebels captured in September in their sweep into Gondar from strongholds in their home province of Tigre to the east.

The latest fighting was reported to have taken place Sunday and Monday.

Although the rebels reported fighting in the Gondar area about a week ago, they have not mentioned the recent battle. Both sides normally report only victories.

The Tigrean rebels launched their offensive in late August, pushing south and west out of Tigre into Wollo and Gondar provinces and penetrating as far south as Showa, the province in which the capital, Addis Ababa, is located.

The government declared a mass mobilisation in September and made its first major counter-thrust in January, recapturing the strategic garrison town of Debre Tabor in Gondar and apparently pushing the rebels northward out of Showa.

The Tigrean rebels have been fighting for 14 years to topple the Marxist government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam. Their leaders say they want a govern-

ment patterned after Albania's, the last hardline Communist government in Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile Deputy Prime Minister Ashagre Yigletu was quoted Wednesday as saying the rival factions of a small rebel group fighting for independence in the Red Sea province of Eritrea have united for preliminary peace talks with the Ethiopian government.

Ashagre, who flew to Sanaa Tuesday for talks with the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), was quoted by the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) as saying the group's various factions "have agreed to come forward as one group and not individually as before."

Ethiopia's Marxist government began separate peace talks last year with the main rebel movement in Eritrea, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which is now the only

rebel force that is militarily active in the province.

Ashagre said the talks in North Yemen would be "a new beginning and independent of previous contacts with the ELF."

The government has previously had separate contacts with different factions of the divided movement.

Ashagre said if preliminary discussions went well, substantive peace talks could start within a month.

The ELF launched a guerrilla war for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony, in 1961 and the EPLF was founded as a Marxist splinter movement in 1970.

The EPLF, which has now renounced Marxism, controls all of northern and western Eritrea, while ELF military activities are limited to occasional skirmishes with EPLF forces near the Sudanese border.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Koran  
15:45 ..... Programme review  
15:55 ..... Children programme  
17:10 ..... Book of Adventure  
18:00 ..... News for the Deaf  
18:20 ..... Religious programme  
19:00 ..... Health programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Local series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Local programme  
22:30 ..... Arabic film  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:00 ..... Tel Pere Tel Film  
18:30 ..... La Chance sur chaussons  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Science on Tourne  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... A Different World  
21:10 ..... NBA Basketball  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Feature film: "Disaster on the Coast Line"

**PRAYER TIMES**  
05:42 ..... Fajr  
06:21 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:50 ..... Dhuhr  
14:52 ..... 'Asr  
17:19 ..... Maghrib  
18:37 ..... Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish  
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62450.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 62366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Assiut International Church Tel. 827061, 685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A cold front affects the country Thursday causing a decrease in temperature and rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with expected showers and rain and will be southerly fresh and sea rough.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber ..... 775050  
Dr. Walid Sababneh ..... 779997  
Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj ..... 771020  
Dr. Khalidoun Klob ..... 75919  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fendous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asad pharmacy ..... 670055  
Rozee pharmacy ..... 626072  
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Steinwald pharmacy ..... 637660

**IRBID:**  
Dr. Mohammed Al Shara ..... (—)  
Al Shara pharmacy ..... (985238)

**ZARQA:**  
Dr. Jihad Al Mishal ..... (—)  
Al Mishal pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Intermediate ..... 63041  
Police ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 697777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 895390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Complaints Information ..... 121  
(directory assistance)  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repair ..... 661101  
Repairs ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 06-53200

**HOSPITALS**  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644216  
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malha, J. Amn ..... 636142  
Palestine, Steinsal ..... 6641714  
Steinsal Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843845  
Al-Muhammed Hospital ..... 6722719  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahl, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Indian, Al-Muhammed ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Amn ..... 77511126  
Al-Bashir, J. Amn ..... 80161715  
Army, Marja ..... 895390  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 62240530

Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)833323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)910771  
Ibn Saud Hospital ..... (09)86712  
IRBID:  
Princess Sumaya Hospital ..... (02)775555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)722725  
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
08:15 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:20 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Montreal, New York (RJ)

16:30 ..... Laraca (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Kuwait (add.) (RJ)  
17:40 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
18:00 ..... London, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
18:10 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
18:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
18:40 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
18:50 ..... Bahrain, Muscat (GF)  
19:00 ..... Amman, Kuwait (KU)  
19:10 ..... Ankara, Istanbul (TK)  
19:30 ..... Damascus, Dubai (EK)  
21:55 ..... Cairo (MS)

**Other Flights (Terminal 1)**  
09:10 ..... Sanaa (LJ)  
10:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
10:20 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
10:30 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
10:40 ..... Muscat, Bahrain (GF)  
10:50 ..... Dhahran (TK)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
11:20 ..... Frankfurt (LH)  
11:30 ..... Zurich, Laraca (SR)  
11:45 ..... Cairo (MS)  
09:35 ..... London (BA)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Rome (AL)  
10:00 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Paris (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Laraca (RJ)  
10:50 ..... Kuwait (add.) (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
11:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

### FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION  
Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
18:00 ..... Koran  
18:15 ..... Children programme  
18:30 ..... Religious programme  
18:45 ..... Play's party  
19:00 ..... Sports programme  
19:15 ..... Religious seminar  
19:30 ..... Feature film  
19:45 ..... Message from Qumran  
20:00 ..... Local programme  
20:15 ..... Local programme  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:45 ..... Arabic series  
21:00 ..... News in English  
21:15 ..... News in Arabic  
21:30 ..... Programme review

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:00 ..... Des Chateaux Et de Lettres



## Ministers give replies to deputies Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will convene Saturday in a session where cabinet members will provide replies to questions put forward by parliament members on matters of concern to the public. A statement here said that the deputies would also present proposals on various local and pan-Arab issues and problems encountered by the public during the session which will be attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the cabinet.

According to the statement, the agenda includes among other things ratification of a loan agreement between Jordan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to finance an expansion of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company's work at Shidiach mines and another loan agreement with the Saudi Development Fund to finance Wadi Al Yassa-Aqaba canal road.

Meanwhile, the House's Palestine Affairs Committee met here Wednesday to hear a report by its chairman, Bassam Haddadin, on the outcome of his meeting with the Minister of Interior on matters resulting from Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank.

The committee members discussed the Soviet Jewish influx in Palestine and decided to call for a joint meeting with the House's Foreign Affairs Committee in order to embark on joint initiatives and contacts with the Soviet President, the European Parliament, the United States Congress and embassies of foreign countries in Amman to present Jordan's views with regard to the danger of such immigration.

## Tawjihi results cannot be reexamined — official

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Wednesday ruled out the possibility of allowing Tawjihi students to review their exam papers evaluated by ministry teachers in the past month following the Tawjihi examination which was taken by more than 66,000 male and female students.

Director of the ministry's examination division, Mohammad Sayel Obaidat, was commenting on reports in the local press about giving the students a chance to review their exam papers.

He said that the grades were accurate and the evaluation was one hundred per cent sound. There is no possibility for errors because each paper was examined by more than one teacher before the final grade was agreed on, Obaidat noted.

The ministry can by no means allow students, who believe that they deserve higher grades, to revise papers after all measures had been taken by ministry officials and teachers to reach the final grade, Obaidat added.

The result of the mid-year Tawjihi examinations were announced Monday in various governorates and many students found that their grades were not as high as those of colleagues of previous years.

According to the ministry, the lowest grade was for English at 40 per cent in the literary stream and 70 per cent for the scientific stream. Obaidat said that the general average grades ranged between 70 and 80 per cent.

According to Obaidat, 239 students had their papers cancelled from the examinations for violations of given regulations.

## Ministry refers tea merchants to court

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 13 wholesale and retail merchants have been discovered by Ministry of Supply inspection teams to have hoarded large amounts of tea or to have refused to put it up for sale, according to a Ministry of Supply statement.

It said that the merchants involved in the cases have been referred to court for trial. The statement said that these merchants were awaiting the new rate of prices to come into force before supplying the market with the tea hoping to make larger profits.

The ministry Tuesday announced that the price of tea would go up from JD 2.150 to JD 2.250 a kilogramme (Gazalein brand) in accordance with a decision taken by a special committee from a number of concerned government departments.

The Supply Ministry secretary-general said that the hike in price was caused by a 10 per cent rise in the price of tea in the country of origin. Merchants, he said, can still go on making a 15 per cent profit on sales.

In its statement Wednesday, the Ministry of Supply said that it will take legal action against all merchants violating the regulations concerning supply products, and urged members of the public to report any manipulation.

## TCC to disconnect lines

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation, effective Saturday, will partially disconnect telephones of those who failed to pay bills due in 1989.

"Bills due from subscribers stand at JD 2,300,000. The subscribers will hopefully settle their bills before the partial disconnection of telephones begins," Telecommunications Corporation Director General Mohammad Shaded Isma'il told Al Rai Wednesday.

The "partial disconnection" measure, Isma'il said, implies that telephones can only receive calls. He continued that this two-week measure is designed to alert subscribers to the need to settle their bills. Isma'il warned that if bills due are not settled after the two-week period, then telephones will be completely disconnected and that the reconnection will be conditional to settling all bills and paying of a JD 5 reconnection fee.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Checco Zalone, Massimo, Maccione, Pincione and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- An architectural exhibition by Ja'far Touqan at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings by Alta Ammoun, Nabila Hishni and Nawal Abdallah at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- A plastic art exhibition by Tawfiq Al Sayed at the Goethe Institute.

### CONCERT

- A concert by the renowned Iraqi oud player Munir Bashir at the Philadelphia Hotel — 8:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- A Soviet film entitled "The Others' Letters" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- A feature film entitled "Life with Father" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- Two German films entitled "Schimpf vor zwölft" and "Bilder eines Jährlings" shown respectively at 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.



A merchant shows a rat-bitten apple

## Rat-bitten apples spark JAMPCO-merchants row

AMMAN (Petra) — Agricultural merchants and middlemen at the central marketplace operated by the Greater Amman Municipality said Wednesday that part of consignments of apples imported from Turkey and sold in Jordan was unfit for human consumption.

They said that they found rats in some of the apple boxes upon their arrival in Jordan under importation arrangements made with the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) — the sole importer of apples from Turkey.

One of the merchants, called Abdul Hamid, said that JAMPCO was not operating a fair distribution system because it was giving the big influential merchants the lion's share of the shipments leaving very little for the rest. He also accused JAMPCO of importing commodities through a third party which causes the eventual price rates to go up because middlemen normally charge high commissions for their operations.

A merchant who preferred anonymity, said that JAMPCO had no time to inspect the boxes of imported apples due to high demand on the product, and did not bring the consignments to the central marketplace for proper examination.

Another merchant, Akram Abdul Aziz Tabeishat, Petra, said that JAMPCO was monopolizing the market by restricting to itself the importation of onions, potatoes, garlic and apples causing a high rise in prices. At present, he said, a kilogramme of onions is sold at 600 fils, but should the merchants be allowed to import these commodities the price could drop to as low as 200 fils.

Tabeishat noted that JAMPCO was forcing local farmers to transport their products in special plastic boxes when they bring these products from the Jordan Valley to Irbid, Amman, and Zarqa, the main consuming centres. This, Tabeishat said, tends to cause the price of goods to rise since the box itself costs at least 300 fils.

At present, JAMPCO is importing apples from Lebanon in a barter agreement, exchanging apples for Jordanian vegetables but Warr warned that apple prices will rise now since Lebanese apples are of very high quality but also with higher prices too. He said that agreement was reached for exchanging 2,550 tonnes of Jordanian vegetables for 1,500 tonnes of Lebanese apples.

In a separate development Agriculture Minister Suleiman Arabiyat visited the central marketplace in Amman Wednesday and said that he was following with deep concern the subject of establishing a centre for agricultural boxes and other containers to transport the produce.

The minister met with merchants and owners of agricultural stores and urged the merchant's association to try to expand Jordan's agricultural exports to other countries.

The merchants demanded that the ministry provide support for the export process by protecting Jordan's produce from foreign competition.



A daily scene at the agricultural market place centre.

## 'Arabs should reassess E. Europe events'

(Continued from page 1)

and much of the rest of the world had defined themselves according to cold war alliances. Not only were Europe-Arab relations defined by them but also inter-Arab relations and international relationships were defined by "whose side you were on." Now all those relationships have to be redefined.

On the question of the reunification of Germany, Sherif Fawaz thinks the decision to reunify will be that of the German people and is no longer up to the Soviet Union and the United States. "This march, elections will be held in East Germany, and in December elections will be held in West Germany and that is when the question of German reunification will be decided."

He says a united Germany would be the biggest (with a population of 85 million) and possibly the most powerful in Europe.

"While many people may not be very comfortable with that idea, it is up to the Germans, and the Germans only, to decide on their fate," he said.

While the West German government had already paid the state of Israel \$47 billion in reparations for Nazi crimes against the Jews in Europe, Israel is now demanding reparations from the East Germans.

## Aoun vows to fight to finish

(Continued from page 1)

noting that scores of the injured were dying in hospitals due to scarcity of blood, and antibiotics and other medicines.

"We have reports of 18 wounded victims who passed away at hospitals in east Beirut alone. We do not have updated reports from the rest of the (Christian) enclave," said a police spokesman.

He said General Michel Aoun was reorganising his forces in apparent preparation for major assaults to dislodge the LF from its besieged strongholds in the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

In his press conference Wednesday, Aoun said: "The world can smash me, but cannot force me to approve Taif."

## Labour ministry stops issuing work permits

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour announced Wednesday that its offices would stop issuing work permits to all non-Jordanians in all sectors throughout the Kingdom as of Thursday Feb. 8, 1990 until further notice.

A ministry statement said that the new measure was taken in implementation of the government's policy of tackling unemployment in Jordan through controlling and organising the Jordanian labour market with a view to finding jobs for unemployed citizens.

The statement said that ministry inspection teams would be charged with intensifying campaigns at all businesses in the country to ensure that they all abide by local labour regulations. The team would take legal proceedings against violators of the law, the statement noted.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran last week referred to the unemployment problem in Jordan by revealing the presence of 80,000 unemployed citizens in the country at a time when Jordan employs 175,000 non-Jordanian Arab and foreign workers in different sectors.

Last October the Ministry of Labour said that only 70,000 non-Jordanian workers who work in the Kingdom have acquired official work permits, and the rest were illegally employed.

To deal with the problem, the ministry said inspection teams would be increased and their daily routine work will be intensified so as to expose the violators of the law and to open the way for Jordanian job seekers to find employment.

At the same time, the ministry said that it could not find substitutes for those employed as cleaners and garbage collectors, since no Jordanian wanted to do this type of work.

The Ministry of Labour earlier banned all non-Jordanians from being employed in administrative, secretarial, clerical, engineering and medical fields or as petrol station attendants.

But the ministry said that employment can be given to non-Jordanians in the agricultural sector and as nurses for whom the country does not have sufficient numbers.

According to the October statement, Jordan has some 12,000 non-Jordanian domestic servants and maids but programs have started to provide training for workers to be employed at charitable centres and homes for the aged.

The Labour ministry's announcement Wednesday followed a statement published in the Jordan Times quoting Labour Minister Qasem Obaidat as saying that his ministry has submitted a proposal for a minimum fixed wage of JD 75 to 80 a month, about twice the basic earnings of the lowest paid foreign labourer.

Jordan has traditionally exported surplus skilled labour to Arab Gulf states. At least 300,000 Jordanians are believed to be working in Gulf states, but job opportunities there have been shrinking.

## Scholars, performers seek to revive Arabic music

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The curtain goes down Thursday on a week-long musical and cultural fair which offered an insight into Jordanian and Arab traditional and avant-garde music.

Inaugurated last Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the programme's activities included: a seminar entitled "Arabic music in Jordan"; a series of concerts presented by local troupes, Arab and international music stars such as Patrick Lama — a Jerusalem-born, Paris-based composer, researcher and analyst.

It also included a three-day meeting of the first "Arab Music Rostrum", which provided valuable examples of traditional, classical and contemporary music of the Arab World.

Many participants presented recordings of 60 minute duration depicting the musical heritage of their respective countries or regions. Some entries, however, were performed firsthand by specialists from different Arab countries.

Co-sponsored by the International Music Council (IMC) and the Arab Academy of Music (AAM), the rostrum came out with recommendations aimed at spreading throughout the Arab World entries which earned high scores.

A selection committee was set up to assess the scores of new entries in accordance with various categories related to geographic distribution, stylistic, authenticity and artistic standard.

Songs and music pieces from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Oman and Jordan earned top grades and the committee recommended that those entries be transmitted by Arab radio stations.

Traditional folk pieces from Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman, Somalia, Yemen, Palestine and Jordan were ranked "B" in the final judgement of the committee.

Tens of music fans attended the week-long activities, co-sponsored by the Amman-based National Music Conservatory (NMC), the Baghdad-based AAM and the IMC which is affiliated with UNESCO.

On Wednesday, the participants held a seminar entitled "Arabic music in Jordan." The seminar tackled a number of working papers dealing with the historical, social, educational and psychological aspects of music in Jordan.

On the fringes of the week-long programme, Jordanian artists and folk troupes staged outstanding performances which earned much applause from the Arab participants.

On Sunday, the renowned Fuhes folk group sang to the tunes of authentic Jordanian and Arab folk music and received a standing ovation from the audience.

Patrick Lama, a Paris-based Arab pianist, had also a share of the action. His fingers played innovative, state-of-the-art pieces where he coupled authenticity with avant-garde compositions.

Tonight, Thursday, Munir Bashir, a renowned Iraqi oud player and an expert on Arabic music performs at Philadelphia Hotel. Bashir, who represented Iraq at the rostrum invited Jordanian top-ranking folk troupes to participate in the forthcoming Babel cultural fair, scheduled to be held next September.



HM Queen Noor

## Nabulsi outlines monetary restructuring plan

IRBID (J.T.) — Jordan is at present directing its attention to carry out a national economic restructuring programme designed to increase national savings, curb excessive consumption and reduce the margin of deficit in the fiscal budget, according to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi.

He said to achieve this goal, the country is embarking on measures to improve agricultural production, giving attention to small and medium size projects carried out by the private sector and striving to increase exports.

The CBJ is a central focus in this whole operation and is trying its best to stabilise the exchange rate of the Jordan dinar, according to Nabulsi in a lecture delivered at Yarmouk University.

According to the governor, recent measures taken by the CBJ owing to Arab financial assistance, Jordan has been able to increase its foreign currency reserve to \$465 million by the end of last year, up from \$109 million at the end of 1988.

He said that the CBJ is trying to replenish the bank's foreign currency reserves to be able to intervene in the market and to have real influence in currency exchange rates.

Following are other highlights of Nabulsi's lecture.

Jordan which has a relatively small economy compared with the neighbouring Arab states depends to a large extent on developing its natural and manpower resources, on money transfers from expatriates working abroad, exports and loans and financial assistance from other countries.

At the same time the Kingdom has been active in developing skilled labour to supply it to Arab countries which form a source for income to Jordan.

It is natural therefore to link the national economy with the economic, political and regional situations in the Arab World and it is natural for Jordan to keep adapting to new developments resulting from them.

Between 1972 and 1985 Jordan was able to achieve high growth rates benefiting from the favourable situation in the Gulf economies resulting from the oil boom.

But, the regional economic recession brought about adverse effects on Jordan causing a devaluation of the dinar. This was accompanied by a decline of remittances from expatriates and the return of many Jordanian workers resulting in increased unemployment in the Kingdom.

Consequently, Jordan's external debts increased by the end of 1988 to reach \$11.8 billion.

According to government plans the economic restructuring programme aims to:

First: Promote the role of the private sector through promoting national exports and setting up the proper institution to guarantee exports.

Second: In the financial policy through the economic restructuring programme Jordan aims to increase revenues and control government spending and rationalise consumption so as to reduce the margin of deficit in the fiscal budget.

## Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL FEB. 10 - 17, 1990 Philadelphia Cinema, Jabal Amman

### Programme of films

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Saturday, Feb. 10 (by invitation only) | Long Live the Lady (Italy)         |
| Sunday, Feb. 11                        | The Big Blue (France)              |
| Monday, Feb. 12                        | On the Black Hill (United Kingdom) |
| Tuesday, Feb. 13                       | Sailors Don't Cry (Belgium)        |
| Wednesday, Feb. 14                     | The Pilot (F.R. Germany)           |
| Thursday, Feb. 15                      | Birthday Town (Greece)             |
| Friday, Feb. 16                        | Bewitched Love (Spain)             |
| Saturday, Feb. 17                      | Looking for Eileen (Netherlands)   |

Films are in their original language and subtitled in English.

(All films start at 8:00 p.m. and entrance is free of charge on a first come first served basis).

## END OF WINTER SALE JORDAN RIVER QUILTS

At the Bridal Chest, Kan Zaman (Off Airport Highway opposite Arabian Horse Club) Thru February

Save the Children Project



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-4, 678141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Helping hand to continuity in Moscow

THE SOVIET Communist Party's move to surrender its monopoly on power and make way for a multi-party system in the country crowns the reform programme in Eastern Europe as launched or approved by Mikhail Gorbachev. There is little doubt that world democracy owes a lot to the Soviet leader, who, despite fierce opposition from Communist diehards, managed to open the door for people's participation in decision-making in Eastern Europe through his "perestroika" and "glasnost" reform programmes while not getting directly involved in the affairs of the hitherto "Soviet satellites."

The current visit of American Secretary of State James Baker to Moscow assumes larger significance when seen in light of the sweeping political changes within the Soviet Union. This is simply because the speed with which the reforms have been turned into reality appears to raise dangers for the Soviet leader himself if not backed by the international community. The very fact that Gorbachev has been displaying an extremely skilful political manoeuvring abilities should be a pointer to the Western powers, notably the United States, that the Soviet president is a force not only to be reckoned with, but also that his reforms must be protected against some of his own people if the world is to realise the dream of a fully democratic Soviet Union.

At this point in time, therefore, it would appear only logical to suggest that arms control issues should assume a lesser important role in order to make way for strengthened political interaction between the superpowers' leaders during Baker's talks in Moscow. Of course, this is not to suggest that there are threats inherent in the global arms race have been totally eliminated, but that what the world needs today is continuity in Moscow. And the only means to ensure that is through helping Gorbachev to protect and push ahead with his reform programmes, which are threatened by chronic economic problems as partly reflected in the secessionist unrest in the various republics that make up the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union may not need any handouts from the West, but it does need better economic management and this is an area where the U.S. and other West European countries could extend a helping hand.

We can only hope that Secretary Baker would not resort to arms-twisting tactics with the Soviet leadership at this crucial point and deal with the issues in Moscow with clarity and vision, with a view to encouraging and ensuring that the new era in Soviet history is not abruptly put to an end.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA' Arabic daily on Wednesday criticised the Arab Nation's reaction to the influx of Soviet Jews in Palestine as one that does not rise to the minimum level of responsible Arab attitude towards a very important issue. The paper said that Jordan seems to be alone in the arena, pointing to this serious situation from a national stand and trying to alert the nations of the world about the consequences of substituting Arabs with Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories. In the light of total indifference attitude of the Soviet Union and the United States with regard to this grave situation, there is no alternative but to rally the ranks of the Arab Nation and adopt a unified stand, the paper said. The continued influx indicates that Moscow and Washington are both giving up their peace roles and their endeavours to establish peace and stability in the Middle East region; and indeed, placing obstacles in the path of peace, the paper added. It said that what is happening now is a mere exchange of parts by the Soviet Union and the United States in the Middle East arena at the expense of peace in our region. The paper called on the Arab leaders to meet at a special summit devoted solely for this important question to the Arab Nation.

The attack on the bus in Egypt in which several Israelis were killed gives rise to a question about the reality and the nature of relations between Israel and Egypt. Is there really peace between the two sides? asks Tareq Masarweh in his column in Al Ra' Arabic daily. The writer notes that Israel reached a kind of truce with Egypt to pave the way for its attack on Lebanon in 1982, and to annex the Golan Heights and threaten other parts of the Arab Nation. He says that the peace with Egypt through the Camp David accords was no more than a chance for Israel to raid the Iraqi nuclear power plant and to impose an aerial hegemony over Jordan and northern Saudi Arabia. What began in Camp David when Egypt was forced to succumb to the will of the United States and Israel is now being pursued to encompass other Arab states and the Palestinians who are demanded to sign a document, giving approval to Israel's usurpation of Palestinian homeland, says the writer. He notes that the Camp David agreement came to pave the way for the so-called Jordanian option with the intention of creating an alternative homeland for the Palestinian people in the Kingdom. Masarweh says that as long as we continue to be cheated by Washington's way of thinking about solutions we will continue to be defeated and we will never be able to regain our usurped rights.

Al Dastour noted in its editorial Wednesday that the U.S. Congress has approved an urgent assistance programme for Israel amounting to \$1 billion to help it settle Soviet Jews on Palestinian land. The paper said that with this approval of American aid to Israel, the Arabs are witnessing a new phase of a serious conspiracy perpetrated through the collaboration of the two superpowers against the interests of the oppressed Palestinian people. The paper said that the influx of Jews will therefore continue to aim at uprooting the Palestinians from their country to make way for the Soviet immigrants with the help of Washington which continues to brag about its intention to help bring about peace in the Middle East.

## Talking Straight

# Political parties need vision, tolerance and platforms

THE first weeks in the life of the new Parliament have pointed out two important developments in the evolution of political life in Jordan. The first one is that freedom of expression, for the first time in several decades, is real and motion. It is being practised by the Jordanian society in general, and the members of Parliament in particular. The second is the obvious absence of political frameworks to organise this freedom and translate it into effective and pragmatic courses of action.

This newly acquired freedom has taken both the press and Parliament by surprise. In less tolerant days, criticism of the government by itself was perceived as an act of courage. Today, that act is no longer sufficient. As soon as the initial euphoria of being able to express ideas freely begins to subside, both the press and Parliament will be faced with the more difficult task of digging into problems, offering objective analysis of issues and suggesting alternatives.

In the absence of political frameworks, the result so far has been more or less chaotic. The press has offered little beyond cosmetic criticisms, and Parliament members, inexperienced in the political game as most of them indeed are and with no clear guidance to direct their moves, have been conspicuously novice in their handling of the vote of confidence and budget deliberations. The government, on the other hand, has not fared much better. It appears to be trying to appease every single demand of every single Parliament member, which of course is not possible, nor does it help define a clear policy for the executive branch. It is clear by now to even the most sceptical, I hope, that the only way out of this disarray is through legalising and institutionalising the political process in Jordan. His Majesty the King has already indicated that such a step is in the making. The National Charter, which will be drafted by a royal commission to be appointed soon, will do just that. It will define the framework within which all political parties in Jordan will function, and it will set the stage of such parties to exist. Only then will we start to reap the real benefits of democracy.

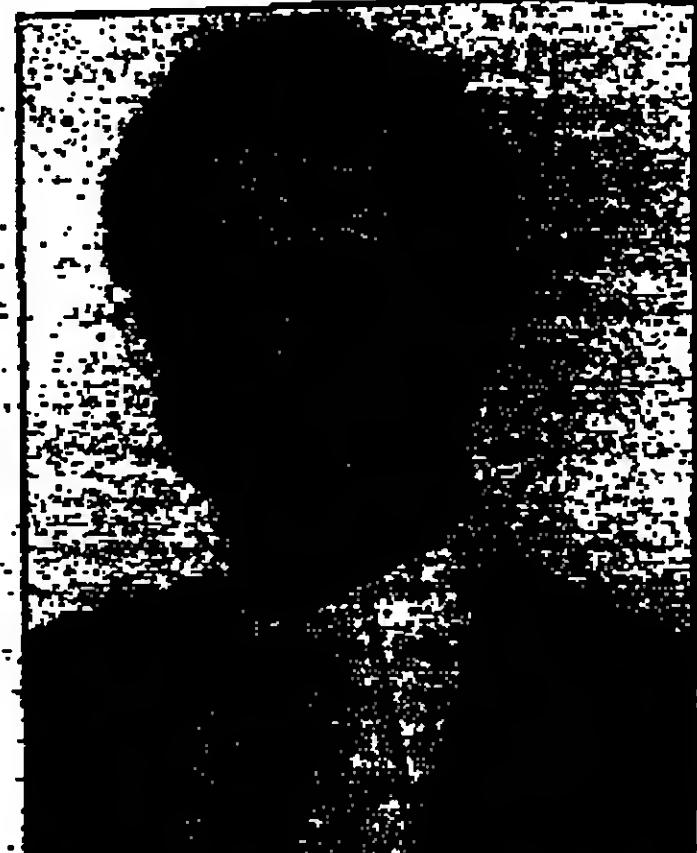
But what is really required to have in a party so that it can claim to be a national party with the wide support and effective sharing in the political life in Jordan? I feel there are some basic principles that all parties should be aware of if indeed they are to be truly

viable. The first and foremost that any party should have is vision. Any party to be formed should develop a clear, well-defined picture about where it wants to lead the nation. This is the challenge that will face all of the upcoming parties. In the past, we had different visions of where Jordan should go: The Communists, the Ba'athists, the Arab nationalists, the Muslim fundamentalists, all had visions of their own. Today, with the exception of the Muslim Brotherhood, all the other visions are, I dare say, almost dead. We have lived in the last thirty years in an almost ideological vacuum. The challenge today is to come up with new visions, new dreams of a future Jordan that can be achieved and that the average citizen can relate to. Otherwise, we will repeat the experience of the fifties, where pseudo-parties were formed by or consisting of several ideologies, political activists, or friends without a wide popular base. Political parties have to present the country with clear and different alternatives, regardless of whether they are modified versions of earlier visions or whether they are new ones.

The second principle that should form one of the backbones of any party's platform is the strong, uncompromising, and everlasting belief in the right of all political parties to co-exist in a multi-party system. The National Charter should spell out this point in the clearest possible language. No party has the right to spread its ideas without equally acknowledging the right of all other parties to do so because in a true democracy, the only way to have a proper system of checks and balances is to ensure that there are always, and I mean always, at least two points of view. One-party, one-thought systems have never worked anywhere in the world. The fall of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe is only the latest example attesting to this fact. Any party that does not adhere to this basic principle should be banned from political activity in the country.

This is a question of survival for Jordan. That is why one should not shy away from voicing one's views in this regard. Any society has to carry within itself the seeds of change. Otherwise, that society is doomed to stagnation and ultimate self-destruction. Those who are not ready to accept the existence of ideas and practices other than their own are inviting destruction to

Dr. Marwan Muasher is a former press adviser to the prime minister. Today, he resumes writing his column, Talking Straight, in the Jordan Times after an absence of two years.



themselves and to society at large. It is therefore absolutely essential that all parties believe not in the possibility of the existence of other parties but in their necessity as well.

The third principle is that all parties should develop clear political and economic platforms to translate their visions into practical policies that can be implemented. In other words, their platforms should have some beef in them. General, fuzzy platforms with no clear political and economic lines are no longer acceptable, nor will they be able to ensure the survival of a political party. In an era where we face serious political and economic challenges, we need parties to propose to us clear lines of action to overcome these challenges, beyond general principles that everybody agrees on, such as the case with several "draft" party manifestos that we have recently seen.

These are the issues I feel any party has to consider seriously if it hopes to lead the nation in the future. It is clear we are still at the beginning of the road. It is also clear that political parties will have to go a long way before becoming fully developed. But before we start learning and practising the political game, we have to agree on the set of rules by which to play it.

# Soviet Central Committee has grown steadily bigger, weaker

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

MOSCOW — The Central Committee, once the powerhouse of the Soviet Communist Party, has become a bloated organisation filled with elderly bureaucrats who take few real decisions, its critics say.

But, because of its high official status, the committee can play a key role at critical moments like this week's meeting at which Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is trying to force radical changes upon the party.

Before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, the Central Committee consisted of a handful of key people who formed the core of the party, meeting in secret to decide its policy.

At one meeting in 1905, nine of

its 11 members were arrested by the tsarist police.

In the early days of Soviet power it continued to take vital decisions. A meeting of 15 members in February 1918 decided with seven votes for, four against and four abstentions to pull out of the World War I and accept a humiliating peace with Germany.

As the Communist regime established itself, the Central Committee gradually became bigger and weaker. It rose to 40 members in 1923, 71 in 1939 and continued to swell after World War II, reaching an apex of 319 members and 151 candidate (non-voting) members in 1981.

Gorbachev has tried to scale it back, cutting it to 249 members last year and reportedly aiming for a level of about 200.

According to its statutes the Central Committee runs the party in the five-year intervals between congresses. But with a requirement to meet only twice a year, the committee itself has little ability to do so in practice.

Top day-to-day decisions are taken by the party politburo, currently consisting of 12 members, and its secretariat, which has 13. These bodies have traditionally predominated over the government.

Extensive powers on more mundane matters are held by the Central Committee's full-time bureaucracy or "apparatus." This has nine departments and is thought to employ about 1,000 officials.

Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin wanted two thirds of the

Central Committee to consist of workers but at present the vast majority are regional party leaders and government ministers or their deputies who virtually have an automatic right to a place.

Most of these are elderly men. The magazine "Argumenty i Fakty" reported this week that of the members elected at the last party congress four years ago, 61 per cent had either reached retirement age of 60 or would do so during their term of office.

By contrast, in 1927 almost half the members were under 40.

The weekly said indignantly that the committee ought to be "a militant, working organ, demanding from its members selfless, untiring enthusiasm, not honorary terms."

Despite its weaknesses, the committee still has extensive for-

mal powers and at crucial moments party leaders still need to get certain key decisions past its mainly conservative members.

In his early days in power, Josef Stalin used the committee to back him against what was sometimes a hostile majority in the politburo.

The dictator showed little gratitude for this support. Of the 139 members and candidate members

elected in 1934, a total of 98 were later arrested and shot, most of them in the great purges of 1937-38, according to subsequent leader Nikita Khrushchev.

The Central Committee also twice played a decisive role in Khrushchev's own fate, backing him in 1957 against the so-called "anti-party group" in the politburo but deciding in 1964 that it was time to oust him.

## LETTERS

### My greatest gift

To the Editor:

IN the article "Veiled myths" by Marwan Muasher, Zuleikha is to be commended for his work as an educator of children, a writer of children's literature and a poet.

But I disagree with her stance on Islamic issues. Zuleikha is perhaps used to criticism, so while I may differ with her on Islamic principles, I admire her intelligence.

However, I ask, what distinguishes a Muslim woman from women of other faiths? Is it merely portrayed by what is in her heart, or is it displayed not only on her face but on her physical appearance as well?

I am a native American. I became a Muslim not only reading Islamic literature but by observing good Muslim women who were my only models of Islamic female behaviour. I disregarded those "modern" Arab women who did not wear scarves and long dresses because they looked and acted much like American counterparts.

It was from good Muslim women that I learned to pray, fast and say, "Al Hamdu Lillah." I tried to raise my children as good Muslims although the task was often greatly challenging since I was new to Islam.

I have always felt Islam to be my greatest gift in life. I am continually puzzled by Arab Muslim women who shed their Islamic dress and adopt Western clothes as well as behaviour.

How can any woman profess that she is a good Muslim in her heart? Does this mean then that besides discarding her hejab, she also does not pray and fast, therefore disobeying some of the basic pillars of her Islamic duties? A woman's faith is displayed not only in her hidden "heart" but physically as well. She must not only be an example to her children but also to her society.

Is she then odd because she wears a scarf? Even if all the world brands her "odd" she is obeying God which is the true meaning of Islam, submission to the will of God.

I have returned to America on various visits to my children who are studying there. I never discard my hejab. I am a Muslim. I am proud to be a Muslim and hope to always improve my weaknesses even though my own American people think of me as "alien." I don't care for I am a walking, living ambassador of Islam.

I have met wonderful Americans who have converted to Islam. The women wear the Islamic dress, fast and pray. They have faith shining in their eyes and on their faces, because they knew how dark life was without Islam and how bright it has become as fervent Muslims.

Islam is a daily force in the life of the faithful. It is not something to be secluded or hidden but constantly enacted and professed.

Zuleikha is forgetting her Islamic duties. She should cast not her scarf but the tendency of many women to adopt Western dress and manners as "enlightenment." Enlightenment should not conflict with Islamic principles. We should seek to please God first, for as Dante in the "Paradiso" put it, "In His will is our peace." Zuleikha should delve into Islam a bit further and there she will find that women are to be covered from head to foot with only the face and hands showing. She may also discover that in Islam a woman is like a precious diamond to be protected and cared for.

I am a struggling writer and poet and therefore empathise with all writers and poets as well as admire intellect, but it is despairing to see my new faith cast in an unfair light. "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see!"

E. Yaghi  
Amman

## Eastern movies for a change

To the Editor:

I AM a regular viewer of Jordan Television's foreign programmes. I like most programmes on "varied" topics as I think they are really interesting. But I regret to say that I do not like the feature films shown which are mostly Western movies. The stories and culture depicted in these movies do not tally with the Arab and Eastern cultures which are identical to a great extent. Therefore it would be a welcome step if JTV would start showing some of the old classical Arab and Indian movies, dubbed as the need may be, for a change. I am confident that my view is shared by many Jordan Television viewers as well.

Adnan Khan  
Yarmouk University

# Communists outwardly strengthened, but faced with possible split

By Roland Prinz  
The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — The Communist Party has emerged from its four-day congress outwardly strengthened, but restive party reformers and growing opposition strength pose a threat to its long-time survival as the dominant political force.

Corruption, economic mismanagement and preservation of outdated Marxist dogma have made the Communists increasingly unattractive in the eyes of many people, knowledgeable Bulgarians say.

Communist leaders are attempting to dilute their party's unfavourable image, however.

In an effort to share the burden of repairing the crisis-ridden economy, the Communist leadership has said it will set up a "government of national concord" — a vague term suggesting opposition participation in running the country until free elections planned for May.

Andrei Lukonov, a party and government veteran with managerial skills and reformist ideas, was elected prime minister on Saturday.

He was expected to try to persuade some members from the

opposition Union of Democratic Forces to join government, scheduled to be created by Thursday.

But a majority of the union's leadership, engaged in talks with the Communists, has said it would reject such participation.

Radical reformers within the party are another source of worry for Communist leaders.

Top liberals in the alternative Socialist alliance, a reformist Communist Party faction disgruntled with the conservatives' unwillingness to purge the party's Stalinist old guard, have said they may split away at a special Socialist Alliance congress Feb. 11.

"The party stands at the edge of an abyss," said Asen Davidov, a socialist Alliance radical who teaches history of philosophy at Sofia University.

However, both the liberal opponents inside the party and the Union of Democratic Forces are not yet strong enough to pose a real challenge.

A more serious threat to the Communist Party's supremacy might come from the agrarians, if and when their two wings bury differences and join forces.

The agrarian party, until recently completely dominated by the Communists, has shown increasing signs of independence

after the ouster of long-time Communist leader Todor Zhivkov on Nov. 10.

It might eventually merge with the reformist Agrarian Party, which was recently formed and is part of the Union of Democratic Forces.

If such a fusion comes about, the agrarians, who are better established than the new and newly revived opposition parties, might become serious rivals for power in Bulgaria.

But it is unclear whether such a move could be made before the first multi-party elections in May.

For the time being, the Communist Party, with a membership of nearly one million people — more than ten per cent of the total population of 9 million — controls politics and virtually all of the Balkan country's public life.

At the party congress that ended Friday, the three foremost reform-minded leaders, party chief Alexander Lilov, Lukanov and Peter Mladenov, who continues as state president after giving up the top party post, managed to avoid an open rift between the conservative mainstream and the party rebels.

The new policy-setting sup-

reme council, consisting of 153 members, includes three socialist alliance reformers — Ivan Nikolov, Koprivka Chervenikova and Kiril Vassilev.

But their election illustrated the difficulty faced by minority progressives.

The supreme council, successor to the central committee, originally was to contain 131 members.

But for the sake of perceived balance, Mladenov proposed inclusion of the Socialist Alliance representatives.

Since Ms. Chervenikova and the other two ranked so far behind on the ballot, 19 other Communist Party members — mostly conservatives — had to be added to the body as well.

Reformers believe the party's only chance for survival is to reorganise along the lines of other Soviet bloc leftist parties further advanced on the path to pluralism.

Vassilev told the congress this week: "Either we renovate the party... or we will be gradually shrinking into a political dwarf."

His son Nikolai, a congress delegate, was even more pessimistic, proposing in an interview creation of a breakaway Bulgarian Socialist Party.

He told journalists to wait until February 13, the start of his first visit to Bonn. Kohl, who revealed they had discussed an economic union, also mentioned that date as a deadline for an "important step forward."

Proposals for a quick economic link, even including use of West Germany's Deutschmark as the sole currency for both states, met resistance in Bonn and Frankfurt — home of West Germany's central bank — when they were first aired last month.

The rising clamour for quick action is putting the focus squarely on just such a step and it should be high on the agenda when Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl meets his East German counterpart, Horst Kamminsky, in East Berlin Tuesday.

Dresden Mayor Wolfgang Berger, freer to speak now that he has quit the Communist party, warned on Friday that a huge new exodus would start unless both Germanys forged a currency link

# Pace of German reunification gathers speed

By Tom Hinegan  
Reuters

DAVOS, Switzerland — The pace of German reunification, already faster than Bonn or East Berlin can control, accelerates still further this month as both states struggle urgently to fend off East Germany's collapse.

Timetables, doubts and objections are losing relevance by the day as panicky East German racing to the West scramble over the wobbly economic and political barriers that still divide the two states.

Now the biggest hurdle — Communist opposition to unity — has fallen, a tone of anxious urgency has come to colour statements from East and West on what has to be done next.

Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East Berlin Prime Minister Hans Modrow retreated to this luxury Swiss ski resort for an international business conference over the weekend.

There was little time to enjoy

the scenery. They huddled in a meeting — their first since Modrow agreed to reunification last Thursday — to see how to speed up Bonn's aid to East Berlin.

Both men were tight-lipped about their plans but Kohl hinted that some form of economic and monetary union — a giant step forward that could create de facto unification even before the two states formally merge — might be the next hurdle to clear.

"We have to show the way into the future even before the elections," Kohl said after meeting Modrow here on Saturday.

East Germany's first free polls, which leaders from both states

had hoped would be an anchor of stability, slowing down the exodus, had to be brought forward from May to March 14, because too many people could wait no longer for a better life.

Over 58,000 people — equivalent to the population of a small city — flooded across the open border last month, draining East Germany's labour pool and swamping West Germany's jobs and housing market.

Modrow, an ever sadder-looking figure as he struggles to keep a semblance of order in his country's head-over-heels scramble towards unity, kept a grim silence over what surprises could be ex-



## Focus on People

By Marwan M. Shalabi

WHILE many Jordanians grumble over the lack of job opportunities in the Kingdom and decide to go job hunting elsewhere, not all have that desire, nor do all feel the need to do so. Um 'Eid is one of Jordan's "unofficial career women" who has been an active member of the unregistered workforce for the past 23 years.

After a two-year rest, Um 'Eid, 53, who describes herself as a mother of nine and grandmother of 13 — "help of the house" has decided to go back to work. Mostly out of need, this middle-aged refugee, who lives in a two-room home in Sweileh with her extended family, has become a wage earner for the third time in her life.

The week Um 'Eid shares her thoughts on the work ethic, recent changes in Jordan's political life, the expected demographic changes in Palestine and the liberation of the Arab working woman with Focus on People.

With surprising agility, Um 'Eid gathers her thick worn thob to tuck it into her shawl and takes off her plastic shoes and heads for the pail and Rembrandt in the kitchen of one of Abdoun's mansions. Her body is light and she moves with the ease of a painter towards her prey; in this case her prey being cleaning utensils.

She has known the family she is working for since 1972 and thus is familiar with the order in the house. "I told the lady of the house she had to go to the messiah consumer's corporation because she had run out of some detergents. I don't understand them; they are rich and they try to save on the little things here and there," she says with a smirk.

"I used to work for them when they still lived in Jabal Lweibdeh. Their children were young then and they were not as rich as now," Um 'Eid says with nostalgia.

"They have two Sri Lankans, but when they knew that I was in need of work they told me to come. They know that no one knows

about cleaning like Um 'Eid," she says with a grin, her kohled eyes shining.

According to Um 'Eid, demand for local domestic help is on the rise in Amman "because they don't want to pay for the work permits."

'Eid and Mahmoud, her two eldest sons, have gone to the Gulf to work and Abu 'Eid has been sick for the last year. "My boys send some money but they have mouths to feed. So what they send is much less than before. My two eldest daughters are married and they work and sometimes they help us at home but we can't keep on taking from them; they have other responsibilities," Um 'Eid says decidedly.

Um 'Eid and Abu 'Eid still have five unmarried children living at home. Two of them are pursuing technical education. 'Eid and Mahmoud were able to receive a university education in Jordan, one at Yarmouk University and the other at University of Jordan. The younger of the two received a scholarship because of his outstanding grades. The other was enrolled with the help of a former employer who used his influence in what was until recently a university system that allowed for a lot of admissions through "wasta." Mostly the children of the well to do and influential and their relatives and acquaintances benefitted from such links. But, as is evident in the case of 'Eid, a few others also benefitted from the "wasta" system.

Officially registered as Palestinian refugees, Um and Abu 'Eid hail from a village near Ramleh and the 'Eid family has often benefitted from the many social and educational programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Um 'Eid is illiterate but is fiercely proud of her education. "My children have been able to obtain. "My children study at universities and colleges and they work. Abu 'Eid always had trouble keeping a job because of his bad health. He is 60 now and all his teeth have fallen out and he has pains in his legs," she says.

## Jasmines and pearls

Um 'Eid bypasses a question on the recent changes in Jordan. "All I know is that life is more expensive, our children are abroad and that more Jews are coming to Palestine and they say there will be another catastrophe. If those people elected to Parliament and their democracy are going to do anything about all that, then good; if not, then we have not lost anything either. I am a guest here and it is not my place to speak. Whenever we, the Palestinians, speak, they say that trouble follows, so it's better that we keep quiet," she says.

In a very opinionated manner and with self-assurance, Um 'Eid speaks like a politician. "The Arabs opted for peace, for a Palestine on the West Bank and Gaza. I am from Ramleh, not the West Bank and Gaza. The Jews from Russia and America want it all, they want to take it all. The Americans stole America from the Red Indians, I know about that. And now it's our turn. The Indians in America live in camps like us. So there is only one solution and that is to fight. Time has proven that there is no other way," she asserts.

What exactly Um 'Eid intends to do about it all is uncertain, but she knows how to convey her political ideas better than many a university graduate. Her role as a wage earner continues and she scoffs at "those educated upper class women who speak of women's rights and equality" as well as the growing number who have adopted a strict code of Islamic dress and mannerism. "Those women have leisure time to talk of women's fashions and fancy ideas. To have the time to philosophise is the privilege of the well to do. They can talk because there are women like me to clean their houses. Once a woman scolded me for not covering all my hair as if I have time to think of that. I have to work to live; there is no time to be idle and talk about how others do." Um 'Eid concludes before excusing herself to begin cleaning the windows. As she climbs on the window bench she sings a song of jasmines and pearls.

Randa Habib's Corner

## Politics with fun

WHEN they gathered for the first time under the dome, I felt so moved, I could hardly breathe. After all, we were living a historical moment in our democratic experience. And no matter what one may think of our parliament, it has played a major role in getting our mind off monotonous day-to-day tasks.

First of all, it has in many ways provided us with material for heated household debate, jokes and gossip, and played a major role in determining where each of us stands regarding this or that deputy.

And what great moments we lived through their wonderful speeches. We heard the most exciting ideas from marching to Jerusalem, to lowering prices. They were also able to corner members of the government, even in major and sensitive subjects, such as dates. And the explanation of the minister who insisted that he tested the dates and found them to be suitable for human consumption, did not satisfy our serious deputies who believe that laboratories are better judges of food, than tasters.

Another major topic was how parliamentarians differentiated between distilled alcohol and brewed spirits. This is a very serious subject. So many other vital questions were also raised, and it would take a much larger space than this corner to enumerate them. However, I personally believe that so far entertainment has been parliament's most prominent contribution to society. I think our deputies were also being funny, and I would hate to think they themselves took everything they said in their speeches seriously.

## Scientists widen hunt for space aliens

By Lee Siegel  
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — The search for intelligent life in space soon will expand to the entire universe when Argentina gets a high-tech radio receiver to listen for signals from the regions of space visible from the southern hemisphere.

"There are so many stars like the sun that it's impossible to think the sun is the only one that has life on an orbiting planet," said Raul Colom, director of Argentina's Institute of Radioastronomy.

The Planetary Society — a Pasadena-based non-profit group that advocates space exploration — raised \$150,000 from its 125,000 members in 70 nations to pay for the sophisticated radio signal analyzer, named Megachannel Extraterrestrial Assay II.

The size of two large refrigerators, META II will be flown to Colom's institute in two to three weeks, said Thomas McDonough, coordinator of the Planetary Society's part of the worldwide search for extraterrestrial intelligence programme, known as SETI.

Two Argentine engineers have been building the device at the Harvard-Smithsonian Oak Ridge Observatory in Harvard, Massachusetts, west of Boston.

Since 1985, the Planetary Society's identical META receiver at Oak Ridge has scanned the space visible from the northern hemisphere seeking a radio signal from an alien civilisation.

Steven Spielberg, director of the film E.T., the extra-terrestrial, donated \$100,000 for the first META project, which is the world's most powerful operating SETI system.

Such research began in 1960. Since then astronomers have conducted more than 50 separate but mostly limited searches for any radio waves that may have been intentionally beamed into space by intelligent extraterrestrials.

With both META receivers working, the planetary society will be conducting "the first systematic search of the universe as a whole for signals from another civilisation," McDonough said. "This could be the system that makes the first contact with another civilisation."

Colom said discovery of intelligent aliens "will change everything in the world."

"Man has always asked who we are and where we are going, and this is part of the answer," said Colom, who discussed the project during visits to the Planetary Society and to NASA and the SETI Institute in Mountain View.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists plan a more sophisticated SETI effort. They plan to start listening to the "northern hemisphere in 1992 and the southern hemisphere no earlier than 1995, said Nick Renzetti, who heads the radioastronomy effort at Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



body. In this same manner of putting in only essentials of a scene that she perceives, Nabila arrives at her fragile watercolour abstractions. A scene that is around her inspires her, it gives her the essential lines, colours, textures etc. then she elaborates on it. The human figure varies in its adaptation, from a mere doodling devoid of colour to a filled form, it is however almost always present in her works.

She highlights her subtle watercolour paintings with intensely coloured shreds of paper torn from magazines. This pinpoints her sensitivity to shape and shade, her strong power of perception. Not only does she discover interesting textures and colours but she manages to cut them out into forms that, once put to float in space, are so meaningful and so contrastingly realistic that they recall surrealism.

In one instance, the introduction of pieces of collage with the image of drapery (classicism), floating in space, conveys the impression of time. The repetition of these pieces gives you a sense of continuity, of movement of history being performed on paper. "There is nothing that is static," she explains, "things move in time. There is nothing permanent and there is a constant evolution with time. This is what I want to convey, and there is a constant evolution with time. This is what I want to convey, not only in this particular work but in each and every one of my works."

Whereas her past works involved more open spaces in which patches of soft colours float, her present work seems more tectonic. Outlines are filled more amply with colour and watercolour assumes a higher intensity and a stronger role via a vis collage; it does not play second fiddle to it anymore. Nabila relates this change to a change in environment.

Wherever you are, you are affected by your surroundings. When I travel, I get impressions of things around me and later, when they are assimilated, I put them down on paper. We are like sponges, we absorb things, they

come out whenever they are ripe. When I came back from Tunis I introduced lots of blue into my work, I was there next to the sea and it left a great impact on me."

Nabila starts with a sketch, retains the theme and develops it. "Sometimes, after years, I come back to one of my collages or drawings, pick some lines or forms from it to create another work. Every painting you do becomes part of your luggage, part of you. You can beckon it anytime, and use it."

Nawal Al Abdallah, the fully abstract party, painted since she was a child. She remembers a day in her teens when the renowned artist Mohanna Durra saw her paintings and encouraged her to exhibit; since then her sole ambition was to be a painter.

Nawal was fortunate enough to study art in Florence. She started by painting figuratively and then went through a natural process of development, her work grew gradually more abstract.

"At a crucial point in my life abstraction was a therapy for me. I could express my innermost feelings and I got into a world that I absolutely adored because I could lose myself in it. It became fascinating, it opened doors for me. It allowed me lots of freedom. But I do not abuse of this freedom. I work a lot. I also like to play. Through play and through studies I arrived to this," Nawal explains.

Her method of painting is the building up process, working gradually onto a meaningful whole where each part is essential and beautiful. One painting might lead to another, new ideas are born with every creation. A small part of a painting can create an idea for a new one.

Nawal's abstract work passed through stages:

At an early stage she painted open spaces and overlapped them with intensely coloured dripping. She went through a stage where one could see classical perspective in her work. Structural "timbers," hinting at architecture, zoomed into the centre where others stood majestically forming a portal beckoning the viewer to enter further into deep space.

In one of her works, Nawal

starts with a figurative sketch of a leaning woman. She obscures that with abstract forms that retain the original volumes. Upon that she juxtaposes three curved brushstrokes of lilac and skin colour that give the nonfigurative image life. These thin curves seemed to simply replace the need to paint realistic skin. Dripping of pink pigment as well as blending it into the shapes underneath make the composition impeccable.

Some of her works are reminiscent of rayonism. Fleeting rays crossing one another. They look like a conglomeration of crystals. "It's a shattering of something... of glass," she explains. Different lines and angular shapes blast their way in many different directions.

She sometimes shades areas with lilac to soften the thrust and to give the work a spiritual feel. She would also introduce "dripping" in a curvilinear manner to relieve the work of its rectilinear harshness.

At one time, black lines dominated and enveloped other shapes and brushstrokes (through the masking technique). Later, she reversed the process by having vivid colours come to the surface burying the darks underneath. In both methods there is a continuous interpenetration of fleeting forms.

Sometimes, instead of allowing these forms to fill the whole format, she makes them fall short of the edge and lets them assume a dominant twirling movement.

Even her colour scheme progresses. "Before, I used to use happy colours, now I enjoy the contrast of dark and light. "Her latest paintings have an unprecedented intensity of colour, well enveloped at the edges with black."

The contrast in rendering, the different styles, the great variety of colour schemes and of the study of light, all lead to understanding the gradual development of art from the physical perception of subject matter (realism), to the use of the object within a design (figurative abstraction), and on to expressive design elements (abstract expressionism). A well-conveyed progression that is worth noting.

3 artists exhibit at Shoman Foundation  
Portraying culture, changing times

By Nelly Lamas

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — An exhibition of the works by three highly qualified women artists is being held at the Abdal Hamid Shoman Foundation. Each artist has a style of her own. About this variety, Suha Shouman explains: "We wanted to show all the possibilities that an artist is faced with, the different phases she passes through, from realism as in Alia Ammoura's watercolours, to a halfway process of figurative abstraction as in Nabila Helmi's collages or in total abstractions as in the Gouaches of Nawal Al Abdallah. One cannot keep working the traditional way (figurative). We are living at the time of computers, of astronauts,

A painter should represent his time and his culture at the same time."

Alia Ammoura reproduces traditional pastoral scenes, a peasant woman picking oranges, the harvest, etc. She draws a record of the professions in Palestine, and represents individuals in oriental portraits. Her work is a documentation of a civilisation that is vanishing, a recapturing of the theme of the book "Before their Diaspora". From its little black and white pictures, taken in Palestine, she receives the images and revives the scenes in colour and develops them into beautifully rendered paintings. Alia has acquired, in a surprisingly short time, a great command of her medium, creating different

values, intensities and transparencies of colour, different densities and light effects.

Nabila Helmi has a more abstract tendency, although she never really lets go of the realism that surrounds her.

Nabila uses a variety of media. She thrives in watercolours and collage, she also works in oils. Her black-brush sketches of a reclining nude (a number of which she exhibits) remind you of Matisse's female outlines but the technique used is reminiscent of none but Delacroix. The same sketchiness of rendering concentrates primarily on the movement (romanticism), pointing out the essential parts of the object, curves for the bent knees, a sinuous line for the rest of the

body. In this same manner of putting in only essentials of a scene that she perceives, Nabila arrives at her fragile watercolour abstractions. A scene that is around her inspires her, it gives her the essential lines, colours, textures etc. then she elaborates on it. The human figure varies in its adaptation, from a mere doodling devoid of colour to a filled form, it is however almost always present in her works.

For all your:  
Packing,  
Air Freight Forwarding,  
Customs Clearance,  
Door-to-door Service,  
Ticketing and  
Reservation needs,  
please call:  
**AMIN KAWAR & SONS**  
Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street  
Shmeisani  
P.O. Box 7806  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel. 604676, 604696

**CROWN INT'L EST.**  
packing, shipping,  
forwarding, storing,  
clearing, door-to-door  
service  
Agents all over the world  
Tel: 604099, Fax: 608822  
Tel: 22285 BEEHIVE JO  
P.O. Box 92487  
AMMAN JORDAN

**EVERY DAY**  
PEOPLE WHO NEED  
MAINTENANCE  
SERVICES  
CALL US!  
**Electrolux**  
P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN  
Tel. 604671

**STUDIO HAIG**  
Professional Quality in  
1 Hour Service  
Develop your colour film at  
our shop and get:-  
• **JUMBO photo**  
size 30% larger  
• **Free enlargement**  
ment 20 x 30 cm  
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays  
Bank. Phone: 604042  
Swedish tel: 823891

**Slide film Processing by Konica**  
Same Day Service  
for all E6 films at  
**Salbhashian**  
Trading Co.  
Wadi Saqra str.  
Next to Petra Bank  
Headquarters  
Tel: 633418

**Saudi Real Estate #1**  
Real Estate  
Agency  
In Town  
Rental Dept.  
Call Soha 687821/22

**EASTERN**  
Packing, shipping,  
forwarding, storing,  
clearing, door-to-door  
service  
Tel: 621 775 Fax: 656 270  
TLX: 23 0 23 PGB: 815 408  
AMMAN-JORDAN

**Furnished Apts.**  
STUDIO - ONE BEDROOM  
TWO BEDROOMS  
Daily, Weekly, Monthly,  
Rates  
Reasonable Rates  
☎ 826 717  
**Granada House**  
5th Circle Near  
Queen Alia Col.

**RESTAURANT CHINA**  
The first & best  
Chinese Restaurant  
in Jordan  
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near  
Ablyyah Girls School  
Take away is available  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
6:30-Midnight  
Tel. 628968

**慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant**  
The only typical Chinese  
cuisine in Amman.  
Chinese Flaming pot is available  
Take away available  
Open daily 12:00-15:30  
18:00-23:30  
Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic  
Bridge  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel: 661922

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
Mecca Street, Yarmouk  
Engineers' Housing  
Estate, near Kilo  
Supermarket  
Mongolian Barbecue for  
Lunch Friday only  
Tel: 818214  
Come and taste our  
specialties  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
6:30-Midnight

**MEXICAN FOOD**  
Between  
1st & 2nd  
Circle  
Jabal Amman  
Tel: 654205  
Open For  
LUNCH & DINNER

**Hashmi Restaurant**  
FIRST CLASS INDIAN  
RESTAURANT  
Special Executive Lunches  
Take away service  
available  
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm  
7:30-11:30 pm  
After the Philadelphia Hotel  
Towards 3rd Circle  
Tel: 659519 659520

**Omani Fish Restaurant**  
Abdoun - Jordan Supermarket Building  
Amman's No. 1 Fish Restaurant -  
Family Atmosphere  
Open daily for lunch and dinner  
Reasonable Prices  
For Reservation and Take away  
Tel: 824677

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL**  
667171/6-670141/4  
Ext. 223



## Gunbattles rage in Pakistan's biggest city 22 killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Security forces and anti-government protesters fought gunbattles in Pakistan's biggest city Wednesday, killing 22 people and wounding 60.

Doctors and police in Karachi, which is paralysed by a general strike, said four of the dead were policemen.

They said most of the injuries were gunshot wounds.

Doctors at Karachi's Jinnah and Abbasi hospitals said they had "declared an emergency and called in off-duty medical staff to cope with a flood of injured."

"The wounded are lying on floors," a Jinnah doctor said. "We don't have many beds. We have appealed for blood donations."

Battles erupted between demonstrators and police backed by troops after more than 50 armed men attacked a police station in an attempt to free people detained ahead of Wednesday's strike.

The powerful Mohajir National Movement (MQM) ordered the strike in Karachi, capital of southern Pakistan's Sindh province, after a deadline it set for the release of 80 kidnapped supporters had expired.

The MQM says the 80 were abducted by members of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

MQM supporters threw up bar-

ricades of burning tyres all over the city of eight million people to halt traffic and set fire to at least 18 vehicles.

Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah told reporters the situation was "well under control," adding: "The strike had little impact."

Troops patrolled Karachi, streets in trucks equipped with machine guns as police reported running battles being fought with guns, tear gas and stones.

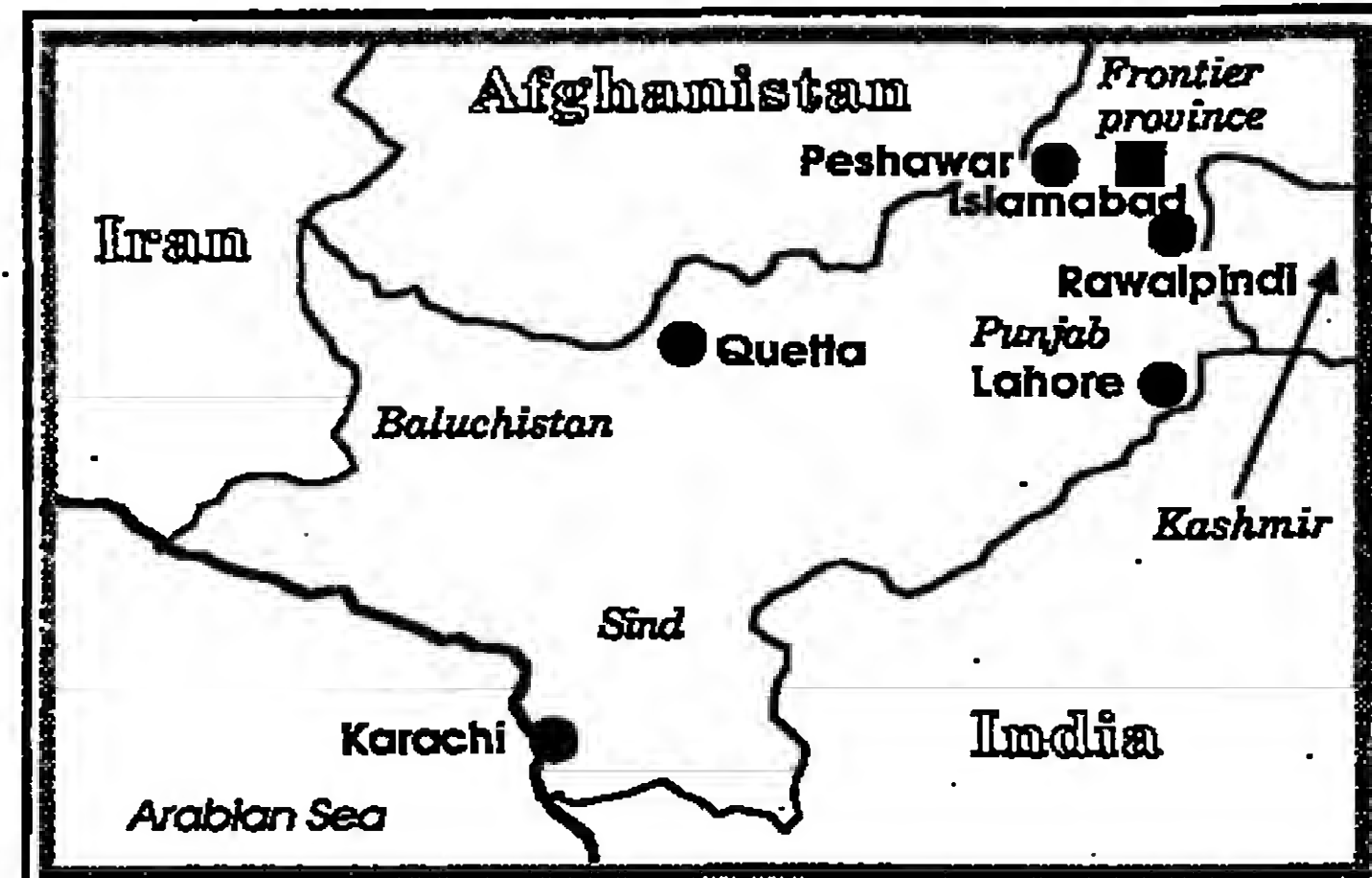
The strike closed the stock exchange in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, and all shopping centres.

On Monday the whole country went on strike to express solidarity with a Muslim uprising in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"One day's strike causes 500 million rupees (\$24 million) loss in Karachi," said Yusuf Zia, a former president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

MQM chief Altaf Hussain accused Bhutto's government of supporting a guerrilla organisation called Al Zulfiqar that claimed responsibility for the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner in 1981.

"You can behead our heads, but our heads will not bow before terrorism," Hussain told a news conference Tuesday.



but our heads will not bow before terrorism," Hussain told a news conference Tuesday.

Government spokesman Iqbal Haider denied the charges and accused the MQM of conspiring against the government.

The two parties have been at loggerheads since last October when the MQM, representing Muslim migrants from India, split with Bhutto and joined an opposition attempt to unseat the prime minister in a parliamentary no-confidence vote.

Qaim Ali Shah, accused by critics being ineffective against frequent ethnic violence in Sindh, said: "Attempts are being made to change the opinion of the people in Sindh by force, threat

and conspiracy which is a criminal act."

Another strike, called by the militant Sind National Alliance (SNA) also affected rural areas of Bhutto's home province Wednesday.

The SNA, which demands autonomy for Sindh, accuses Bhutto's government of inefficiency and corruption.

Among Wednesday's casualties was a news photographer who suffered serious head injuries and a broken leg when police beat him with rifle butts, a reporter who saw the attack said.

The reporter named the photographer as Zahid Hussain who works for a local daily, the Dawn.

## Iliescu to run for president, aide says

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Interim President Ion Iliescu has registered the National Salvation Front to run in the May election, and a top aide said Iliescu will be its candidate for president.

The front, which has ruled by decree since Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled in December, will compete in the election against 29 political parties.

The front's decision to enter the elections contradicted an earlier pledge not to contest them. The decision sparked wide protests when it was announced in late January.

Since then, the front has agreed to form a council of national unity with opposition parties to run the country until the May 20 elections, Romania's first multiparty contest since World War II. The new council will meet for the first time Friday.

Our candidate for president will be Mr. Iliescu, that's for sure. That's what everyone wants," said Dan Radulescu, chief of the front's commission for press and public relations.

Interim Prime Minister Petre Roman also said in an interview with U.S. television that he wants Iliescu, a former Communist official who fell out with Ceausescu, to run for president.

"I hope it will be Iliescu," he told commentator John McLaughlin in the interview, which will be aired in the United States next weekend. A transcript was made available here.

Roman said he would not campaign to be prime minister but would probably accept the post if the front wins the election and asks him to serve.

Iliescu Tuesday went to the central tribunal to officially register the front, which has split from the government and the eight-member ruling council.

In its platform, released Tuesday, the front said its aim is "realisation in Romania of a democratic society based on political pluralism, the separation of powers in the state, (and) the assurance of liberty and human dignity."

The front said it would guarantee "the inviolability of human rights, the respecting of the rights and liberties of all national minorities, (and) the guarantee of freedom of religion."

The platform also calls for "the creation of a modern national economy" based on efficiency and individual as well as collective initiative.

Roman said in the interview that Romania is moving slowly toward a market economy and faces two major economic problems: It produces only basic products, and its major industries have excess capacity.

The platform includes guidelines for membership in the front and an outline of the movement's structure from villages on up. It bars from membership anyone convicted of crimes against the revolution.

The platform makes no mention of the Communist Party. In early January, leaders of the front announced they would outlaw the party. Then they decided to submit the question to a referendum, only to cancel the vote a short time later.

Asked in the interview whether the party was dead for all practical purposes, Roman replied: "The Communist Party doesn't exist any more. Practically, it was a self-dissolution."

## Prospects for German reunification boosted

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Prospects for German reunification have been boosted by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's call for immediate talks with East Germany on a monetary union and U.S. support for a proposal on foreign troops in a unified Germany.

In Bonn, delegations from the British, French and Polish governments discussed German reunification Tuesday with government officials including Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Kohl called for immediate negotiations with East Germany over setting up a unified monetary system, in an attempt to rescue East Germany's crumbling economy and stop the accelerating exodus of its citizens.

He said the talks should also extend to a possible economic union between the two states.

"People in East Germany must see now that citizens of West Germany are ready to help," Kohl said.

The move would make the West German mark East Germany's currency and would turn over much of East Germany's economic sovereignty to West Germany and its central bank.

The formal proposal for talks will be made at a cabinet meeting and details worked out when East German Premier Hans Modrow visits Bonn next week, Kohl said.

Nonetheless, the influential head of West Germany's central bank — Karl Otto Poehl — has voiced serious reservations about a speedy monetary union.

East German officials, while acknowledging that a monetary union could ease some immediate problems, generally have resisted such a move because of fears that it would erode the value of East German savings.

They also fear that unprofitable, state-run enterprises would have to close, leading to large layoffs.

An accelerating exodus to West Germany, strikes and absenteeism are rapidly driving East Germany's economy to the brink of collapse.

Federal officials say that so far this year, 66,000 East Germans have emigrated to West Germany.

Kohl's proposal came shortly after his economics minister, Helmut Haussmann, suggested a three-step plan for economic and monetary union of the two countries by Jan. 1, 1993.

Kohl did not give a timeframe for the monetary union. But government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the chancellor shared Finance Minister Theodor Weigel's view that it should come before the end of the year.

There is strong sentiment for reunification in both German states, but only in an orderly procedure and not as the result of chaos that would result if East Germany's economy collapsed.

Prospects for German unification are also complicated by the fact the two German states belong to opposing military blocs.

Modrow has proposed that a unified Germany be neutral, but the United States and its NATO partners, including West Germany, reject such a idea.

Genscher has made a proposal designed to deal with this thorny problem and Tuesday it picked up support from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Genscher last week suggested that a united Germany remain in NATO but Western troops be barred from moving into what is now East Germany.

His proposal would also allow Soviet troops to remain in the Eastern region — at least at the outset.

But West Germany's Stern magazine quoted a Soviet official as ruling out NATO membership for a united Germany.

"That's not any more possible than a reunification within the framework of the Warsaw Pact," Nikolai Potugayev, an expert on German affairs in the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, was quoted as saying.

South Korea, he said, spent only 1.5 per cent of its defence budget on research and development in 1980, but the amount will be increased to 3 per cent in 1996 and 7 per cent in 2000.

South Korea depends almost entirely on the United States for its weapons, systems, but the country recently has made impressive progress in developing its own weapons, including new army tanks more suited to Korean terrain.

South Korean defence spending is fixed at 6 per cent of its gross national product (GNP), which expanded at an annual rate of 8 to 9 per cent during the past decade. Last year's Korean GNP was estimated at \$194 billion.

As a deterrent to what he called the growing North Korean military threat, the minister said South Korea needs to maintain close security relations with the United States and share more of the costs of keeping U.S. troops here.

South Korean officials later indicated they expected to discuss the withdrawal of some 3,000 more U.S. troops, all non-combatants, when U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney visits.

China's communists call for multiparty cooperation

PEKING (AP) — The Communist Party Wednesday released a document calling for increased cooperation with China's eight tiny non-Communist parties while asserting that China always will be under Communist rule.

The release of the Dec. 30 document comes as Communist parties in Eastern Europe let go of their hold on power and the Soviet Communist Party debates whether to end its constitutional power monopoly.

China has not commented on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals to abolish the party's 70-year guarantee of a "leading role" in society.

Communist parties in East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries already have eliminated their monopolies on power.

The Chinese document, however, stressed that "China's multiparty cooperation must uphold the leadership" of the Chinese Communist Party, according to a paraphrase by the official Xinhua News Agency.

China's constitution refers to the Chinese people as being "under the leadership of the Communist Party."

In an apparent attempt to distance China from the pattern of political reforms that has taken hold in Eastern Europe, the document said China "differs from the one-party system practiced in some Socialist countries."

The Chinese leadership has watched with concern the developments in Eastern Europe. Some analysts have said China's leaders hope to prevent a viable opposition from forming in their own country by appearing to give the eight officially sanctioned non-Communist parties more influence in policy-making.

The Communist Party frequently has called for more cooperation with what it calls "the democratic parties," but these parties hold no real power and are considered rubber stamps for Communist policy. Formed before the Communists took power in 1949, their aging ranks now number about 30,000 compared to the 48 million members in the Communist Party.

In a Dec. 28 speech to party leaders, senior leader Deng Xiaoping said, "the democratic parties should be turned from flower-verse parties into ones that take part in politics."

## C8 LUMN

Fewer men die of lung cancer

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of lung cancer deaths among men is expected to drop in 1990 for the first time since at least 1953. In its annual cancer facts and figures, the American Cancer Society predicts 92,000 men will die this year of lung cancer, down from 93,000 last year and the first decline since the projections began 27 years ago. About 50,000 women will die of lung cancer, up from 49,000 last year. Lung cancer will account for 142,000 of the 510,000 cancer deaths this year, the society said. The main risk factors include smoking and exposure to radon, radiation, asbestos, arsenic and other chemicals. The society's other 1990 predictions included: 600,000 new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer, the majority of them curable, and another 27,600 of melanoma, the most serious skin cancer. There will be 6,300 deaths from melanoma and 2,500 from other skin cancers, 150,000 new breast cancer cases, up from 142,000 last year — partly because of the aging population. The five-year survival rate for localized breast cancer has risen from 78 per cent in the 1940s to 90 per cent today.

Icons attract record crowd

VATICAN CITY (AP) — An exhibit on Russian icons at the Vatican museums drew the biggest crowd ever for a short-term special show, the museums' director said Tuesday. A total of 112,602 people saw the exhibit in the 68 days it was open, said director Carlo Pietrangeli in an interview with Vatican Radio.

"We could count on ever-bigger crowds, with lines in St. Peter's Square and along the colonnades, with more than 3,000 people on the busiest days and an average of more than 1,600 people a day," Pietrangeli said. The exhibit of 112 works of art from the 13th to the 18th centuries was organized by the museums and the Ministry of Culture of the Soviet Republic of Russia. Pope John Paul II inaugurated the show on Nov. 18, shortly before the first meeting ever between the Vatican and Kremlin leaders. The icon exhibit was seen as an indication of the rapprochement between the Vatican and the Soviet Union in recent years.

Manila cracks down on child sex

MANILA (R) — The Philippine congress is cracking down on child sex and the mail-order-bride business. A house of representatives committee endorsed a bill this week that would impose prison terms of 10 to 20 years for adults who have sex with children under 15 years old. Another committee sought to ban newspaper advertisements for mail-order brides. The advertisements offer foreign husbands to Filipinas, many of whom end up as virtual slaves in Japan, Europe, Australia or the United States. "Operated by unscrupulous and heartless individuals, the practice has not only cast shame on our women in the international community, but has also exposed thousands of impoverished Filipinas into further misery in the hands of their foreign spouses," said Congresswoman Lorna Verano Yap. The proposed bill did not bar marriage between foreigners and Filipinas, but was an attempt to curb the business in young and often ill-educated Filipinas attracted by advertisements to a life abroad, she said. The House Committee on Justice endorsed Tuesday a separate bill to protect children, particularly from foreign paedophiles.

Philippine troops battle rebels in south; 75 killed

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Soldiers clashed with suspected Communist guerrillas in four-day battle in the southern Philippines that left at least 67 insurgents and eight government troops dead, the military reported Wednesday.

Maj. Hermogenes Esperon said the first major clash this year between soldiers and the Communist New People's Army (NPA) began Saturday on the outskirts of Mahayag town in Zamboanga Del Sur province, about 770 kilometres southeast of Manila.

Esperon, the military's Southern Command spokesman, said about 200 rebels ambushed an army truck in Mahayag, killing a soldier and a government militiaman in the initial volley of gunfire.

Six other soldiers abroad the truck were wounded but they managed to return fire and held off the attackers until reinforcements arrived, Esperon said. He did not say if any rebels were killed or wounded in the initial clash.

Esperon said at least two army battalions later joined the government forces, which then engaged the rebels in skirmishes over four days across several towns in three provinces.

He said field reports indicated that 67 rebels and four more soldiers and two government militiamen were killed in the succeeding clashes. Three more soldiers also were wounded, he added.

The remaining rebels were reported to have broken into several smaller groups and scattered in different directions to elude pursuers, Esperon said.

Sihanouk in Thailand to prepare for return to 'liberated' Cambodia

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's exiled prince, Norodom Sihanouk, arrived in Thailand Wednesday to prepare for his return to the part of his homeland seized by guerrillas fighting the government.

A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sihanouk was driven directly to the seaside resort of Pattaya and did not speak with reporters waiting at the Bangkok Airport.

A spokesman for the prince in Bangkok, Roland Eng, said Sihanouk was expected to spend about a week in Thailand before going to Singapore. He would then return and travel to an area of Cambodia recently captured by guerrillas fighting the Vietnamese-installed government, Eng said.

"I'm so happy," the 67-year-old Sihanouk said before leaving Peking for Bangkok. "I have nostalgia for my country, my homeland and my people."

Before the end of the month and after a visit to Singapore, Sihanouk plans to go into Cambodia, but exactly where was being kept secret, Eng said. The

prince has said his home will be "inside Cambodia near Thailand."

The prince, who is the head of a U.N.-recognised government fighting a rival Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, said in Peking that he was able to return because his army had recently enlarged the "liberated zone" of Cambodia.

He said he was ending his exile because of the growing trend in the West to recognise the government led by Hun Sen. "If I establish myself in Cambodia, they will hesitate before recognising Hun Sen," he said.

Sihanouk said he would concentrate on "social affairs" upon his return and would not cooperate with the radical Khmer Rouge group, which is militarily the strongest in the guerrilla alliance.

In recent months Western backers of the guerrillas have been increasingly uneasy about cooperation between fighters loyal to Sihanouk and the Communist Khmer Rouge which killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians when it ruled the

country from 1975-78.

The battlefield successes of the Khmer Rouge since the avowed withdrawal of Vietnamese troops backing the government in late September have raised Western fears that the Khmer Rouge could come to power again.

In late January, the prince quit as president of the guerrilla coalition but said he would remain head of state, a title he held before being ousted in a 1970 coup. He said he would run for president if a political settlement were reached with Hun Sen and general elections held.

Sihanouk has given his support to a proposal for both the guerrillas and Hun Sen to cede power to a U.N. trusteeship that would administer the country until elections can be held.

Sihanouk, ousted by the U.S.-backed Lon Nol forces in 1970, returned to Phnom Penh when the Khmer Rouge took over in 1975. But he was put under house arrest, and other members of the royal family were arrested and murdered.

He went into exile in 1979 after Vietnam's invasion.

He went into exile in 1979 after Vietnam's invasion.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Japanese petition for return of islands

TOKYO (R) — Fifty million Japanese have now signed petition calling on Moscow to return a group of small islands the Soviet Union has held since 1945, Kyodo News Agency said Wednesday. The signatures on the petition, which was started in 1963, represent about 40 per cent of Japan's 123 million people. Petition organisers said the milestone was reached Wednesday morning, Kyodo reported. The dispute over who should rule the island off northern Japan has prevented Tokyo and Moscow signing a treaty formally ending World War II hostilities. A treaty would allow Japan to enter the embattled Soviet economy, including huge development projects in the Soviet Far East.

#### Japan lifts trio of satellites into orbit

TOKYO (R) — Japan lifted a trio of satellites into Earth orbit Wednesday, a first for Japan that showed Tokyo's determination to build a major presence in space. "The satellites all have to be put into different orbits, so it's quite difficult," said an official at the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA). The satellites will monitor the Earth's environment, test basic techniques for achieving a microgravity environment in space and relay messages for ham radio operators. They were lofted aboard of two-stage H-1 rocket that took off into partly cloudy skies from the Tanegashima Space Centre off the coast of Kyushu in southern Japan at 0133 GMT. Thirty-three minutes later they had separated and entered different orbits, although the precision of the orbits was still being checked, the space official said. Only the United States, the Soviet Union, China and the European Space Agency had previously orbited three satellites from one rocket, he said.

#### Kashmir militants attack police bunker

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Muslim militants Wednesday hurled a grenade at a police bunker in downtown Srinagar and strafed the post with automatic rifles fire, witnesses said. At least six policemen and two bystanders were injured in the attack, said the witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity. It was not immediately known how many militants were involved in the attack or if any of them suffered injuries when the policeman returned fire, they said. In another part of the city, a bomb believed planted by the militants exploded in a post office. There were no injuries, other witnesses said. On Tuesday, night, suspected militants blew up a truck, injuring one person who was sleeping in the vehicle, witnesses said. The attack on the police post was the latest in a series of confrontations between security forces and militants fighting for secession of the Kashmir Valley from Hindu-dominated India. At least 77 people have been killed since authorities launched a crackdown on the movement on Jan. 20. Most of the victims have been Muslims who were shot and killed for defying curfew orders. Srinagar is the largest city in the Kashmir Valley and is the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

#### Haitian elections in doubt

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A key political alliance threatened Monday to pull out of Haiti's general elections unless the military government allows exiled leaders and United Nations observers to monitor the balloting. Marc Bazin, the presidential candidate of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, also presented four other conditions for the alliance's participation in this year's elections. They were that the government move up the presidential balloting to July, assure Haitians it will respect the constitution, release uncharged political prisoners and provide fair trials for those who have been charged. "Our position is clear. If the electoral council does not modify the timetable, we will not participate in elections," Bazin said at a press conference.

#### Police stop Rushdie from reappearing

LONDON (R) — British writer Salman Rushdie wanted to come out of hiding Tuesday for the first time since an Iranian death threat was put on his head a year ago — but police bodyguards stopped him. A lecture on censorship which the Indian-born writer was to have delivered was read instead by dramatist Harold Pinter. The late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill Rushdie for his novel the Satanic Verses, which sparked violent demonstrations amongst Muslims. He had been under cover ever since. British special branch detectives, who have been guarding him, warned Rushdie against giving the lecture at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.

#### Bulgaria disbands secret police

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria said Tuesday the secret police had been disbanded in a major shake-up of the state security services aimed at helping the country rid itself of its hardline Communist past. "The traditional state security structures have been disbanded," Interior Minister Atanas Semerdziev told round-table talks between the government and opposition parties in Sofia. "The law enforcement authorities will become new and modern bodies independent of any political party and guided solely by the interests of the people and the state," the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA) quoted him as saying.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND.	MOON.
AMSTERDAM	04	30	03
ATHENS	05	37	08
BAHRAIN	17	03	08
BANGKOK	24	75	24
Buenos Aires	24	75	24
Cairo	05	41	04
CHICAGO	-01	30	11
COPENHAGEN	05	41	04
FRANKFURT	05	41	04
GENEVA	-02	27	05
HONG KONG	13	15	04
ISTANBUL	04	39	08
LONDON	04	39	08
LOS ANGELES	07	44	17
MADRID	05	41	12
MEXICO	18	64	28
MONTREAL	-16	-02	32
MOSCOW	-01	32	01
NEW DELHI	00	48	25
NEW YORK	-02	28	37
PARIS	01	34	18
ROME	04	15	39
SEATTLE	01	34	18
TOKYO	03	37	08
WENNA	00	32	10

M - indicates missing information







## Algeria to speed up reforms

ALGIERS (R) — Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci painted a grim picture of the Algerian economy Tuesday and vowed to speed up reform of the public sector.

"We want to speed economic reforms essential to confront the continued and generalised regression of economic parameters," he told a conference of public sector managers.

President Chadli Benjedid launched sweeping reforms of the public sector in the mid-1980s, scrapping central planning and introducing market mechanisms.

But the reforms have met resistance from entrenched interests and a wave of strikes since political liberalisation last year.

Hedouci said inflation was rising too fast and spoke of growing

impatience at the slow pace of economic reform.

"It is no longer a question of debating the necessity of economic reforms or their content. The question of the hour is applying them," he said.

A planning council report presented to the conference said gross domestic product (GDP) rose 2.8 per cent in 1989, about the same as in 1988.

But the rise was due largely to improved world prices for Algeria's main exports, oil and gas, and masked a 2.7 per cent drop in non-hydrocarbon industrial production.

Overall output excluding hydrocarbons and agriculture rose 0.7 per cent compared with a five per cent target. Investment needed to revive the economy fell 1.5 per

cent instead of the projected 5.6 per cent growth.

"Results from the year show our objectives were in general not reached," the report said.

Inflation hit 13 per cent, "despite the freeze in products of necessity and the increase in goods available." Price hikes have been fuelled by decontrol measures linked to the reforms, a gaping budget deficit, excess liquidity and black market speculation.

The reforms aim to turn Algeria's 459 state enterprises — nearly three-quarters of which lose money — into independent profit centres, but only 240 have so far become autonomous.

For 1990 the government targets GDP growth of 4.6 per

cent, an investment hike of 5.1 per cent and a 5.2 per cent rise in production outside the agricultural and hydrocarbons sectors.

The government plans to create 137,000 jobs, 80 per cent more than in 1988, but well below projected demand of 220,000.

Job creation is deemed essential to placate a burgeoning population whose riots in October 1988 helped propel reforms.

The report said Algeria's foreign debt at the end of last year reached \$23.8 billion, of which \$10 billion must be repaid over the next two years.

Debt service in 1989 will continue to absorb three quarters of export earnings, the report added. \$2 billion of new financing will be needed.

## Qatar establishes new Islamic bank

NICOSIA (R) — Qatar has approved setting up an Islamic bank with a 100 million riyal (\$27.4 million) capital as a shareholding company, a bank spokesman said Wednesday.

Faisal Al Saiti, managing director of the new Qatari International Islamic Bank, said a decree establishing the bank was issued by Crown Prince Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Tuesday.

He said the bank's seven-member board would be headed by Justice Minister Ahmad bin Seif Al Thani.

Twenty per cent of the shares have been covered by the founders while the rest will be offered for public subscription within two weeks, Saiti added.

Following Islamic banks regulations based on religious grounds, the bank will charge no interest on loans which will be made in the form of letters of credit to meet any imports.

It will also pay no interest on deposits but shareholders and clients will benefit from any profit made and also bear any losses incurred.

The bank will be based in Doha with plans for future expansion abroad, Saiti said.

The new bank will be separate from the Qatar Islamic Bank already in existence and is designed to expand its operations outside the Gulf state in addition to engaging into commercial transactions.

## Romania permits private enterprises

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania, in its first major shift towards a free-market economy, has authorised the setting up of small private enterprises and said it would welcome foreign investment in them.

An official decree due to come into force March 7 authorises four categories of economic activity which would largely be free of state control.

They were listed as small enterprises employing up to 20 people, profit-making local associations of up to 10 people, family businesses and self-employment.

A new national committee for small enterprises, in association with the ministries of economy and finance and the National Bank, would shortly define the areas in which these businesses could be set up, the degree of state assistance and the tax regime to be applied, the decree said.

But it said the small enterprises could be financed by an individual or with Romanian bank credits or "by authorisation of the Foreign Trade Bank, any foreigner may sponsor (them)".

The National Bank would issue the applicable conditions for foreign investment soon, it added.

The decree said the small en-

terprises could set their own pricing levels and trade directly with foreign companies or go through existing Romanian foreign trade channels.

All foreign currency earnings would be held in the Foreign Trade Bank and 50 per cent would be compulsorily converted into lei — the national currency — at current exchange rates.

Buildings and equipment for the enterprises could be rented from the state or bought or rented privately.

Another significant clause said small enterprises could associate and work together with the agreement of the new committee, raising the possibility of vertically or horizontally integrated production in the private sector.

The only major indication of a continuing state role was a clause saying the new committee would control the supply of raw materials and energy to the enterprises. There were no details of how this would apply in practice.

The decree said approval for new enterprises would be granted within 30 days, meaning that private enterprise could be up and running in Romania by April after 40 years of some of the strictest central control in Eastern Europe.

## Bonn approves quick currency union talks

BONN (R) — West Germany called on East Berlin Wednesday to agree to immediate negotiations on setting up a currency union meant to stave off looming economic collapse across the border.

The Bonn cabinet, in a rare meeting with West German central bank president, Karl Otto Poehl, decided to offer its muscular Deutschmark to replace East Germany's feeble currency in a radical step that could force economic reunification soon.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel rushed to parliament after the meeting to tell deputies the "escalation" of the crisis in East Germany had forced Bonn to move fast to force back a wave of frustrated East Germans fleeing to prosperity in the West.

"We must remain master of the political process," Waigel told parliament.

Almost 70,000 East Germans — enough to fill a small city — have crossed the border so far this year, leaving gaping holes in their homeland's labour market and straining West Germany's tight job and housing markets.

Bonn politicians hope introduction of the Deutschmark will convince East Germans their work will be properly paid at home and that Western investors, assured by the West German central Bundesbank's control over the East German currency, would swarm into the country to help revive its tattered economy.

It would amount to a virtual annexation of the East German economy, in advance of the political merger both states now say they want, and it would give the Frankfurt-based Bundesbank the final say over East Germany's monetary policy.

Poehl, the official defender of the Deutschmark's value, has persistently warned of problems a head-over-heels currency union would bring but is careful not to

spell them out.

He repeated his opposition after meeting his East German counterpart Horst Kammnisky Tuesday.

As one senior banking source put it: "the only alternative is higher inflation or higher interest rates."

Waigel said there was now no difference between himself, Poehl and Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, who had proposed a three-step currency plan only reaching unity in 1992.

Bonn must now be ready to come up with cash to support a currency union, he said without elaborating.

The head of West Germany's Savings Bank Association, Helmut Geiger, said in an interview Wednesday that a bailout of East Germany would demand enormous sums of money — "billions of two-digit sums in billions (of marks)".

Politicians like Kohl and Waigel say they know this but argue that, faced with the spectre of collapse in the East and a flood of immigrants rushing into the orderly world of West German prosperity, they have no choice but to act quickly.

Bonn will present the currency union proposal to East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow when he visits here Feb. 13 and 14.

One government source said the two states could agree to open talks then but the only chance for a currency union to be set up that quickly would be if East Berlin was prepared to simply give up control over its economy.

Asked if that were conceivable, another source said: "I could imagine that."

Tuesday, a government spokesman reacted to Kohl's proposal for immediate talks on currency union by saying East Berlin had no objections if this was aimed at stopping the exodus of workers to the West.

## Americans favour green landscape over rosy economy

HOUSTON (R) — A green landscape is more important to Americans than a strong greenback, a new survey shows. The poll, released by Cambridge Energy Research Associates and Opinion Dynamics Corp, found that 74 per cent of those surveyed would accept slower economic growth in order to improve the environment, if they were forced to make a choice.

However, 62 per cent of those polled felt that the country can improve environmental conditions without sacrificing economic growth.

"The public is willing to pay a cost for environmental improvement and protection," Bill Schneider, a senior consultant with Cambridge Energy Research Associates told reporters at a news conference.

"One in five Americans thinks that he or she has personally been harmed by environmental problems in the United States and double that number, over 40 per cent, are of the opinion that they will be harmed by environmental conditions sometime in the next 10 years," Schneider said.

When asked where government should allocate a limited pool of financial resources, finding ways to safely dispose of dangerous chemicals and waste ranked third, behind stopping drug abuse and improving education, the survey showed.

## Inflation may cause heart attacks in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Turkish business will suffer a heart attack unless the country reduces its spiralling inflation, according to a World Bank investment affiliate.

Reynaldo Ortiz, Istanbul-based representative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), said in an interview in the daily Milliyet: "If low lira depreciation and high inflation remains, it will mean a heart attack for business. Then you will be in trouble... what seems to cause no major harm today will make your lira useless in the long run."

The lira depreciated about 26 per cent against the dollar last year compared with 68.8 per cent inflation.

The State Institute of Statistics has announced that consumer price inflation slowed to 60 per cent in the 12 months to end-January after December's 68.8 per cent and November's 69.4 per cent.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, February 7, 1990  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	116.8	118.0
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	453.9	458.4
Pound Sterling	1120.7	1131.9	Dutch guilder	332.5	336.0
Deutschmark	397.7	401.7	Swedish crown	108.1	109.2
Swiss franc	445.5	450.0	Italian lire (for 100)	53.5	54.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	189.8	191.7

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7015/25	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar	
	1.6573/80	Deutschmarks	
	1.8700/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.4800/10	Swiss francs	
	34.71/75	Belgian francs	
	5.6400/50	French francs	
	1234/1235	Italian lire	
	145.35/45	Japanese yen	
	6.0600/1000	Swedish crowns	
	6.4215/65	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4045/95	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	419.30/420.30	U.S. dollars	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stocks fell in reaction to negative overseas news and the rising toll of corporate collapses. The All Ordinaries index closed at 1,645.6, down 22.9 points.

TOKYO — Tokyo shares closed sharply lower as market uncertainties and recycled rumours chased skittish investors to the sidelines. The Nikkei index tumbled 364.96 points to close at 37,301.87.

HONG KONG — Stocks rallied for the second successive day, pushing the Hang Seng index up 52 points or 1.9 per cent to 2,844.89 after Tuesday's 36-point gain. Brokers said the steep rise was unlikely to continue.

SINGAPORE — Singapore shares closed weaker, but were above their lows in brisk trade. The Straits Times index fell 5.39 points to end at 1,577.31.

BOMBAY — Shares ended mixed in light trade as investors kept to the sidelines watching events in Kashmir, rocked by separatist unrest. The Bombay stock exchange gained 0.21 points to 674.47. The national index was up 0.67 to 376.02.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended broadly lower in moderate trading. The market continued consolidating amid worries that German monetary union could weaken the mark. The DAX index fell 32.76 to 1,904.96.

PARIS — Blue chips were sharply lower by midday. But with buyer reluctant to take new positions, volumes remained thin.

ZURICH — Shares extended early losses to close weaker in trading depressed by lower international markets and higher local interest rates. The SPI index fell 10.8 to 1,120.2.

LONDON — Shares were broadly weaker in late trading for the third day, amid continuing worries over the outcome of this week's U.S. Treasury refunding. At 1550 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 13.0 points at 2,308.1.

## Green revolution in Europe may boost Gulf Arab industry

BAHRAIN (R) — The growing power of the "green" revolution could force many West European petrochemical plants to shut down and rebase in areas like the Gulf where energy costs are low, a senior British industrialist said Wednesday.

John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, told Bahraini businessmen for Gulf Arab states, which want to set up joint-venture industries with European partners.

"I would not be at all surprised if the leaders of the petrochemical companies in Western Europe will find it impossible to operate their plants in a decade's time," he said.

They will want to base their

operations in other places with competitive energy prices and secure energy supply," he noted.

Banham said industries most affected by demands to reduce or eliminate toxic emissions would be energy-intensive plants producing chemicals, plastics, steel and textiles.

Environmental control costs and taxation of domestic energy would continue to rise, especially in Britain, he said.

"Political and public opinion poll require that plants in northern Europe are shut down if they do not meet the required environmental standards and the cost of failure to comply with these standards will grow progressively higher," he said.

## Chinese indebtedness increases

BEIJING (R) — China's state-run enterprises, mainstay of the economy, plunged further into debt last year as low efficiency and bad planning depressed profits, an official newspaper said Tuesday.

If the fortunes of the state-owned sector remained unchanged, Beijing's 18-month-old economic austerity programme could fail, the China Daily said in an unusually critical article.

"At this rate, no matter how the government adjusts, the economic retrenchment programme would fail to achieve its purpose," the daily said in a report headlined: "Industry efficiency plumbs new depths."

Nineteen per cent of industrial enterprises under the state budget were in debt last year, up

from 13 per cent in 1988, the paper quoted the State Statistical Bureau as saying.

Government revenue from the sector stagnated. Taxes and profit contributions to the state rose only 0.2 per cent in 1989 against the previous year, the state Statistical Bureau said.

State-owned enterprises account for about 60 per cent of the nation's total, measured by output value. Most of the rest are collectively owned.

"The growth in the number of money-losing enterprises is only an indication of a more widespread decrease in industry's profit," the newspaper said.

It attacked the state's carpet industry as "stupid" for producing 20 million square metres of carpet last year when national

demand was just eight million square metres.

Western diplomats said founding state industries were pushing economic planners toward a stark choice — ease up on the austerity programme or face mounting debts, spiralling unemployment and industrial stagnation.

International lending bodies such as the World Bank may apply additional pressure on China to ease its tight credit policy and continue with market reforms — almost abandoned in recent months," they said.

"The World Bank will be making a report on China in March. It is likely to recommend more genuine market reforms and China may listen because its current programme is heading for failure," one diplomat said.

The World Bank is expected this month to grant China loans for humanitarian purposes. The March report will decide the powerful body's future attitude to Beijing, diplomats said.

China launched an austerity programme to rein in inflation in September 1988 and has pushed the rate down from a 25.5 per cent peak in early 1989 to about seven per cent this year.

As banks squeezed the money supply, industrial output slumped and signs emerged recently that China is profoundly worried.

Four major state-run institutions have been warned by the powerful State Planning Commission to overcome their low efficiency, the official New China News Agency said.

## Bush promises more prosperity

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush sent his first economic report to Congress Tuesday and promised to restrain government spending and push for tax cuts to foster even more prosperity.

Bush said he would continue his fight to get Congress to reduce the capital gains tax and pledged anew to fight protectionist trade barriers.

His message did not dwell on what many see as the biggest

failures of the previous administration, the record federal budget deficits and the huge trade imbalances that transformed America from the largest creditor nation to the largest debtor country.

Bush did pledge to deal with "inherited problems," but his formula for dealing with the budget deficit tracked the approach used by former president Ronald Reagan.

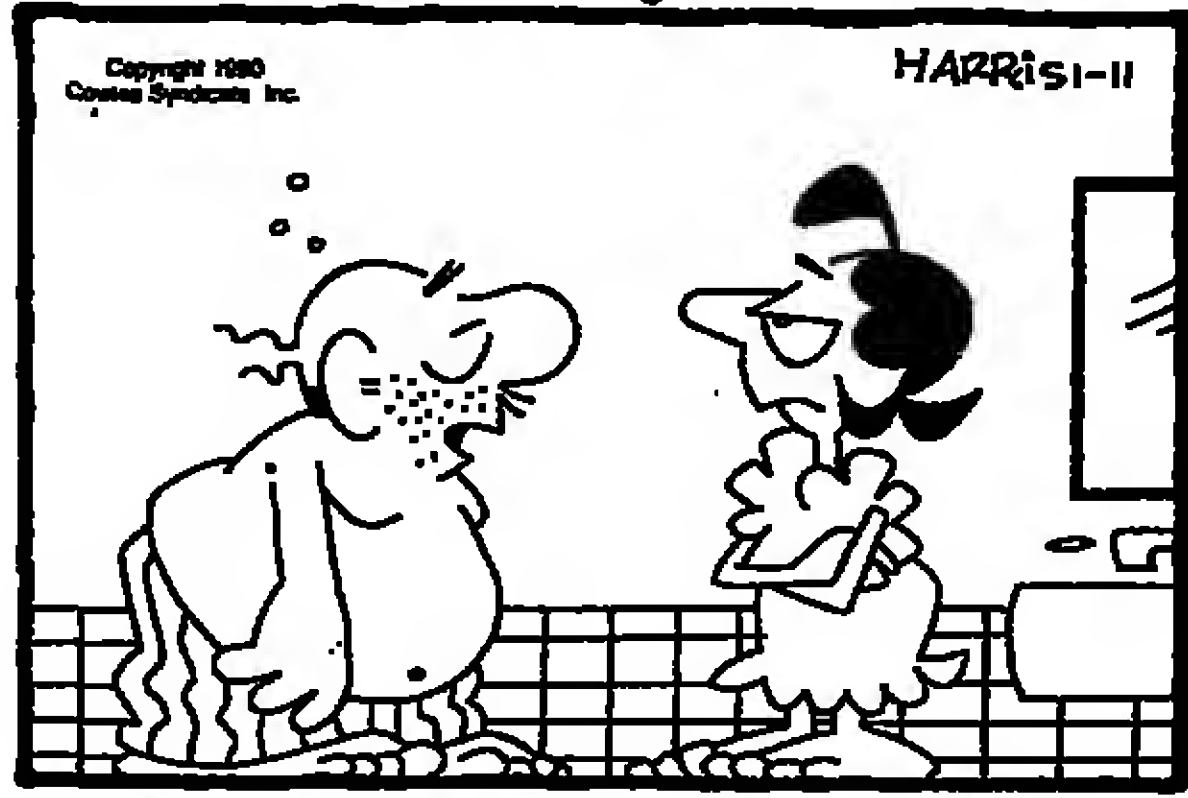
Many private economists say the administration's economic outlook for the next five years is

too optimistic.

The administration foresees no recession with the gross national product expanding at annual rates of three per cent or higher from 1991 through 1995.

While stressing traditional Republican free-market themes, the 419-page annual "Economic report of the President" avoided some of the more doctrinaire positions on monetary policy and supply-side economics sounded during the Reagan years.

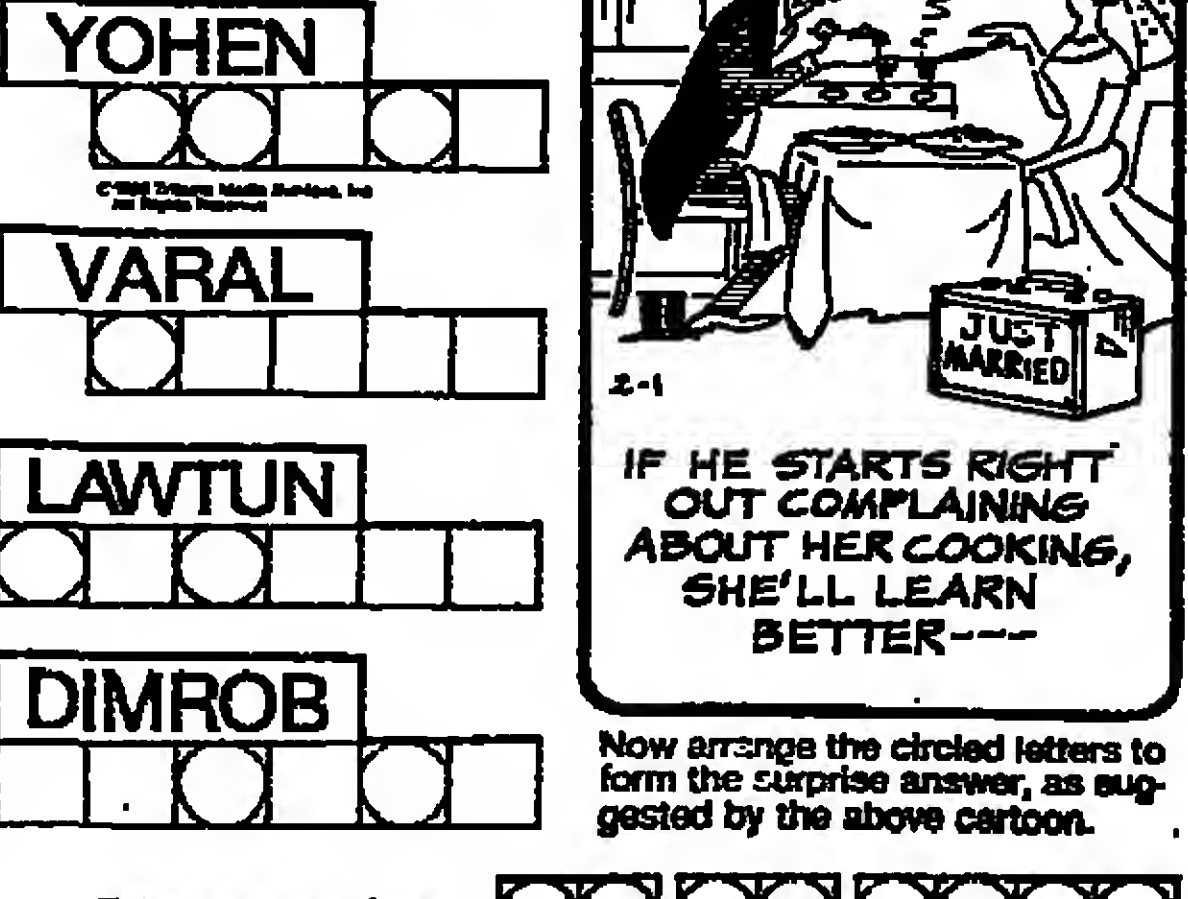
### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I forgot — do I brush my teeth and comb my hair, or brush my hair and comb my teeth?"

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DAILY VERVE EIGHTY BEATEN  
Answer: What many family problems are — ALL "RELATIVE"

Peanuts

Mutt'n Jeff

Andy Capp

